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DPP boss decides to bow out early to ease in the changes



Dame Barbara: "it was my decision to go"

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

DAME Barbara Mills, QC, Director of Public Prosecutions, announced yesterday she will leave her post early ending weeks of speculation about her future as head of the Crown Prosecution Service.

The abrupt announcement, made without warning, comes just two weeks before publication of a major report into the service which is expected to contain a damning indictment of the organisation.

It also marks the climax of a fiercely-fought Whitehall battle by

the DPP for her £100,000 a year job as head of the service, a post she has held since April 1992, until her contract expires next April.

Instead a new DPP will be advertised for and she will stay only until a successor is found.

Ministers privately believed that the much-delayed report by Sir Iain Glidewell, which will recommend an overhaul of the service and the way it is run, made her position untenable. In recent weeks Dame Barbara, 57, has contested drafts of the report, seeking to ensure her side was put and amassing counter-statistics.

A senior civil servant, Dame

Barbara is believed to have sought legal advice about her position from Sir Richard Wilson, the Cabinet Secretary. One Whitehall source, asked if she had put up a fight, said: "That's the understatement of the century."

Yesterday Dame Barbara said her departure had nothing to do with the Glidewell report. "I have not been pushed out, I am not resigning. I have made a decision — and it is my decision — that it would be better for my successor to be appointed when the new procedures and arrangements are coming in."

She said she had been thinking about the decision for some time. "I

decided it was much more in the interests of the CPS that I should tell the Attorney-General my decision."

It was better, she added, to have an "orderly hand over" to the new DPP.

Dame Barbara suggested to John Morris, QC, the Attorney-General, and he agreed, that the search for her successor should begin now.

Mr Morris paid tribute to Dame Barbara's strong and positive leadership and the Prime Minister's official spokesman said Mr Blair thought she had done an extremely good job. But privately ministers believed she could not survive the report in to the workings of the

service. Among its recommendations are expected to be the creation of a new chief executive to oversee the administration of the Crown Prosecution Service.

The service is expected to be reorganised into 42 areas, breaking up the current 13 regions and making it more locally accountable.

Sir Iain Glidewell, a former Court of Appeal judge, was appointed by Mr Morris in June last year to conduct an independent inquiry into the workings of the service because of ministers' concern over falling convictions when crime was rising. It is thought that although Sir Iain's report, likely to be

published shortly after Parliament's Whitsun recess, will not be a personal attack on Dame Barbara, it will list a string of criticisms of the organisation she has presided over for six years.

Fred Broughton, national chairman of the Police Federation of England and Wales, said they had long been "highly critical" of the CPS. Sergeant Mike Bennett, chairman of the Metropolitan Police Federation — who has dubbed the CPS "Criminal Protection Society" — welcomed the news: "She should have gone a long time ago."

Abrupt end, page 2

MPs angry over newspaper deals

Freed nurse to face trial in Britain

By CAROL MIDGLEY, MICHAEL BINYON AND ROGER MAYNARD

LUCILLE McLAUCHLAN, one of the two British nurses who will arrive in London today after being freed from jail in Saudi Arabia, has been summoned to appear in a Scottish court next month charged with stealing £1,740 from a dying AIDS patient.

The Procurator Fiscal in Dundee obtained a warrant citing her to appear at Dundee Sheriff Court on June 18 after learning yesterday that she was coming home.

McLauchlan, 32, and Deborah Parry, 39, were released from prison in Dammam yesterday, after being held for 17 months for the murder of fellow nurse Yvonne Gilford. King Fahd issued an order commuting their sentence, but their convictions have not been overturned.

The women will fly back to a bitter row over the deals their families have signed with two national newspapers and the Press Complaints Commission has been asked to intervene to prevent them being paid a reported £125,000 each



"Next time I'm going to commit a crime I can't go to a newspaper"

by The Mirror and The Express.

The Labour MP George Galloway, who denounced the payments as "blood money" and a "black eye" for the British and Saudi Governments, filed a formal complaint to the PCC. But Piers Morgan, editor of The Mirror, said that publication of the women's stories was in the public interest.

Clause 16 of the Code of Practice states that payment must not be made to convicted or confessed criminals or to their associates unless the material concerned should be published in the public interest and "payment is necessary for this to be done".

Members of the culture select committee also opposed the deals. The Labour MP Claire Ward, said: "Both these women should be grateful they are coming home, not seeking to profit from this case." And the Conservative Damian Green said: "It seems that the press will never learn. Every time they do something like this they make it more likely that a Government will be forced to take legislative measures."

The PCC said it had received several telephone complaints about the newspaper contracts and two written ones. But it would not use prior restraint to stop the payments being made because publishing the women's stories may be in public interest.

Max Clifford, who negotiated the contract between McLauchlan and The Mirror on

Tuesday evening, said that he had received an "avalanche" of offers from television, radio, book publishers and film companies. "If the diaries contain what I have been told they contain, they will be sensational," he said, adding that he believed in the women's innocence and would not be involved if he did not.

Mr Morgan said: "In our view this is a clear cut case of miscarriage of justice. There was no real evidence against them and their confessions were beaten out of them through physical and sexual abuse. We have paid Lucille McLauchlan a substantial sum to provide some small compensation for two years spent in primitive, barbaric conditions. There is obvious and compelling public interest in this story, and because we believe her to be innocent there is no breach of the Press Complaints Commission Code of Conduct."

"If she was guilty of murder, would the Prime Minister have gone to such lengths to intervene and get her released? As to George Galloway's ludicrous statement, I don't think we need to defend our ethical and moral position to a man who spends his lunchtime coysing up to Saddam Hussein and his evenings dining with Colonel Gaddafi."

The two nurses have been held since December 1996 for the murder of Miss Gilford. Parry was convicted last August of stabbing Miss Gilford and was sentenced to death. McLauchlan was held to be an accessory and sentenced to eight years in prison and 500 lashes. Parry escaped beheading after Miss Gilford's brother, Frank, agreed to accept \$1.1 million "blood money".

The money is being held in Australia and Mr Gilford's lawyer has called for it to be paid immediately.

Mr Gilford said: "I reckon they should honour their deal," adding that he had no feelings about the nurses' release. But his wife, Laurel, said: "It is just maddening that they have got off, but nothing we can say can bring Yvonne back."

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Liza Minnelli arriving for the vigil service for Frank Sinatra on Tuesday night

Sinatra's final farewell

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

FRANK SINATRA was buried next to his parents last night after a private funeral and a packed vigil at which he was remembered as a great man — if not always a good one.

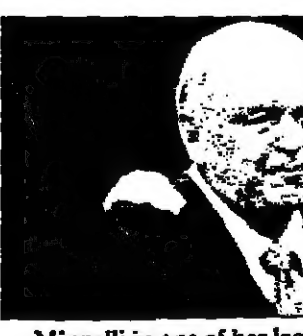
His coffin bedecked by a thousand white gardenias, Sinatra's final journey began on Tuesday night on the shoulders of friends and fellow performers. Several generations of Hollywood luminaries — among them Kirk Douglas, Jack Lemmon, Liza Minnelli, Tom Selleck and Diana Ross — followed the casket into the lavishly decorated Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Beverly Hills.

As they passed between the pillars garlanded with ivy and white roses, mourners were

handed memorial cards with a photograph of a smiling Sinatra holding a puppy on one side, and the prayer of St Francis of Assisi on the other.

Inside, his fellow balladeer Tony Bennett told the congregation of several hundred that Sinatra "studied the human condition, and that's what he put in his music", while Cardinal Roger Mahony said in his homily that Sinatra's greatness came from being able to see beyond his own struggles and failings and encourage others to follow suit.

Many of those at the vigil returned to the church yesterday for the funeral, which was followed by burial at the Desert Memorial Park near Palm Springs. The coffin was draped with an American flag and accompanied by a military guard of honour.



Minnelli in one of her last appearances with Sinatra

Blair puts five pledges in writing to Unionists

By PHILIP WEBSTER,
MARTIN FLETCHER
AND ANDREW MAGEE

WAVERING Unionists were offered a signed pledge by Tony Blair last night as polls suggested that they might be swinging back behind the peace accord.

As Northern Ireland prepared to cast the most important vote in its 77-year history tomorrow, the Prime Minister made five promises on the issues most worrying Unionists. Those handwritten promises formed the backdrop for his final campaign speech in the predominantly Protestant town of Coleraine, and will be unveiled in poster form in Belfast today.

Emphasising his position as Prime Minister of the entire United Kingdom, Mr Blair solemnly promised that those who used or threatened violence would be excluded from Northern Ireland's government, and that terrorist prisoners would not be released unless violence was permanently renounced.

Mr Blair, who arrived with William Hague to stress cross-party support for the accord, also pledged no change in the province's constitutional position without majority consent, devolved powers, and fairness and equality for all.

The Prime Minister's personal guarantee was unprecedented, according to political historians, but had obvious resonance for Unionists.

In 1912 Edward Carson, the

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- At 30p on weekdays, The Times is better value than ever before, better value than any other national newspaper.
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- While The Daily Telegraph, The Guardian and The Independent each costs 45p a day, and the Daily Mail and The Express each costs 35p, the 84 broadsheet pages of The Times today cost only 30p.
- Because of the quality, range and value of The Times, its sales have more than doubled in the past four years, particularly among young readers and the affluent ABCs.
- Today that value has never been better.

Drama team quits Arts Council

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE Arts Council's entire Drama Advisory Panel, including some of the most distinguished figures in the theatre, resigned last night because they said they faced being turned into "token luvvies" by their new leadership.

In a letter to The Times today, the panel's members state that they feared that a planned overhaul of the Arts Council would lead to arts practitioners being sidelined in favour of the new executive, which is led by Gerry Robinson, the businessman who took over as chairman on May 1. The letter's signatories include Thelma Holt, the producer, Alan Ayckbourn, the playwright, the directors Sam Mendes and Michael Atten-

borough and Jude Kelly, the artistic director of the West Yorkshire Playhouse. Ms Holt, who was chairman of the panel, said last night that Mr Robinson "clearly knows nothing about the arts".

The letter states that the panel feared that funding decisions would be made by a "cultural bureaucracy less accountable, less accessible, and increasingly remote from the artists and audiences which the Arts Council exists to fund, develop and encourage".

The Arts Council annually distributes almost £400 million. Last night Mr Robinson said in a statement that the organisation regretted Ms Holt's resignation.

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Whoops! My turn to creep after case of mistaken identity



Savidge: the real creep

OUR MPs' failings are famous but the breed also has virtues and these are less well known. Unlike peers, MPs almost never complain to journalists about being insulted or abused in print. If it hurts only a few let it show, most regarding name-calling as part of the job: they dish it out and, on the whole, they can take it. In a decade of reporting the Commons, this sketchwriter can count on the fingers of one hand those MPs who have ever been seriously unpleasant about anything I have written, and that is not because the sketch is always kind or fair. It is not. Errors of fact creep in too,

hopefully not too often. Take yesterday... Malcolm Savidge MP, who turned 52 a fortnight ago, is a new Scottish Labour backbencher. With a shortish face, a wide forehead, spectacles, a friendly expression and receding hair, Mr Savidge won Aberdeen North last May.

Ross Cranston MP, a new Scottish Labour backbencher, will be 50 this July. With a shortish face, a wide forehead, spectacles, a friendly expression and receding hair, Mr Cranston won Dudley North last May. Yesterday I accused Mr Cranston of being a creep. A

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

bespectacled, balding, Scottish Labour backbencher asked Scottish Office ministers to outline the impact that government policy was having on hospital provision in north Scotland. It was Mr Savidge. I expected quite a rocket from Cranston, and opened the envelope with a green portulacis crest with trepidation. But Cranston had written me the mildest, nicest of notes. His words were not intended

for publication but he will not mind. "Wrong person! Actually at the time I was with 50 vaccine damaged children and parents. They are a forgotten people and have a great deal of justice on their side. Any help you can give this would be appreciated. Yours sincerely, Ross."

"Don't bother," he said. My postbag contained another letter from an MP. Patrick Nicholls (C, Teignbridge). This sketch is consistently rude about Mr Nicholls. On Monday he had made a plea for understanding for President Suharto. Yesterday's sketch implied that Nicholls's opinion was absurd, that he might as well apologise for Stalin and Pol Pot — and described him as a terrier-like fellow whom history was unlikely to judge kindly. My letter from Nicholls thanked me, tongue-in-cheek, for the publicity, made no complaint about my personal

remarks, but returned with polite insistence to his argument, which was that, for all his failings, Suharto had achieved more than it was fashionable at present to allow. The MP asked me to think about what he had actually said, rather than the way the House had chosen to take it. We mock our politicians a great deal. I make a living by it. It is worth reflecting, sometimes, that this is an assembly of men and women who are paid less than many journalists, who work hard, who take a lot of knocks, and who often mean what they say and are doing their best.



Cranston: a good sport

Matters of style oust 'Commissar Babs'

THE abrupt early retirement of Dame Barbara Mills will be seen as a humiliating end to one of the most high-profile careers in the legal system.

As with her predecessor, Sir Allan Green, who resigned as Director of Public Prosecutions in disgrace after being stopped allegedly kerb-crawling, stewardship of the prosecution system seems to have turned into a poisoned chalice. In her six years, she has become synonymous with the worst aspects of the Crown Prosecution Service: its overblown, top-heavy bureaucracy, its poor morale and intimidatory civil service mentality where everyone must toe the line.

She has also become widely disliked for an abrasive and bossy management style which earned her the nickname of "Babs the Commissar" among barristers who were once her colleagues but grew to regard her almost as a traitor.

Dame Barbara came to the post of Director of Public Prosecutions six years ago, amid much trumpeting because she was the first woman to be appointed to the job. Before that, she had been head of the Serious Fraud Office but left before she attracted much of the stigma of its series of failed prosecutions.

She was a successful QC —

Frances Gibb looks back on the rise and fall of woman who ruled over failure at prosecution service

she prosecuted Michael Fagan, who broke into Buckingham Palace; defended Winston Silcott, charged with the murder of PC Keith Blakelock and was one of the chief prosecutors in the Guinness trial. It was not long before lawyers were accusing her of losing faith with the tenets of the Bar and the need for a fair and effective justice system where the prosecution and defence cards are evenly stacked.

Nor did they like her ambitions to win the right for her own prosecutors to bring cases in the crown court. The job of DPP was never going to be an easy one: the Crown Prosecution Service, then just five years old, had got off to a lame start with inadequate funding and a shortage of lawyers.

Dame Barbara succeeded in beefing up its central organisation, issued national standards to bring uniformity of performance and was zealous in promoting her new brief, right or wrong, although wrong is never admitted.

One observer said: "Barbara is very can-do. Whatever she is asked, she will do it. But

sometimes she should have stood back and said — this is not what should be done."

Gradually her new tough can-do management style began to rebound. Lawyers resented being turned into pen-pushers and being removed from their core work of making decisions on prosecutions. Her detractors say that she has become a pure bureaucrat, swamping the service with management diktats and form-filling.

A MORI poll based on views of two thirds of the lawyers in the service in 1996 found staff demoralised about the new management culture, their excessive workloads and emphasis on administration. The ratings, MORI said, were the worst it had ever polled among 400 organisations in 40 years.

Within weeks of assuming office, the new Home Secretary and Attorney General made clear they were turning their sights on the CPS, chiefly because of concern over what looked like as fall of one third in the rate of convictions against a background of rising crime. They also announced a

reorganisation of the service, to break up its large 13 areas and create smaller regions in line with police force areas — a move which effectively ditched a reform brought in by Dame Barbara herself when she cut the number of areas from 31 to 13 — reform, she said at the time, that was vital for the future. Within three months, she was fighting for her future when the High Court last July castigated her failure to prosecute police officers after three deaths in custody. She was forced to reconsider her decisions.

Her defenders say the job is a "no win" one: that she has made the CPS more efficient and consistent than when set up 10 years ago through such measures as national charging standards; that she has struggled with inadequate resources and that, with energy and zeal, she has put it the CPS — once a joke service — on the map. She is also a fighter and is fiercely defensive of the organisation. She has never accepted that convictions are falling; any fall, she says, is attributable to the lack of cases being charged by police. Whatever the truth of the debate over statistics, some say she had to leave a post where she has become inextricably identified with what the forthcoming Glidewell report will condemn as a deficient service.

My pledge to the people of Northern Ireland. No change in the status of Northern Ireland without the express consent of the people of Northern Ireland. Power to take decisions returned to a Northern Ireland Assembly, with accountable North-South cooperation. Fairness and equality guaranteed for all. Those who use or threaten violence excluded from the government of Northern Ireland. Prisoners kept in unless violence is given up for good. Whatever the referendum result, as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom I will continue to work for stability and prosperity for all the people of Northern Ireland. Tony Blair

Tony Blair's handwritten pledge to Unionists urging them to back the accord

Blair's pledge to Unionists

Continued from page 1

father of Ulster Unionism, published a "Solemn League and Covenant" against Irish Home Rule that many of the 480,000 signatories signed in their own blood.

Ministers said Mr Blair faced his biggest challenge since the election to secure a 65 per cent "yes" vote. Anything less would mean a majority of Unionists had voted against and could render the agreement unworkable. However, a poll in today's *Irish Times* shows 60 per cent overall support for the accord with 25 per cent against and 15 undecided. The equivalent figures a week earlier were 56, 25 and

19, suggesting undecided Unionists may be swinging behind the accord. An *Irish Independent* poll yesterday showed 44 per cent of David Trimble's Ulster Unionist Party in favour, 14 per cent against and 41 per cent undecided. Mr Trimble, buoyed by the success of Tuesday night's rock concert, attacked Ian Paisley and Bob McCartney, leaders of the "no" campaign, saying they offered "no alternative, no vision, no hope and no achievement".

President Clinton sent a message to the *News Letter*, the province's biggest Protestant newspaper, saying: "I urge you to make the choice

for peace." Richard Branson, the billionaire tycoon, arrived in Belfast to lend his support. He promised flights full of American and European tourists, and to open more shops and cinemas in Northern Ireland, if the accord was implemented. Even Gerry Adams offered Mr Trimble discreet help by admitting that the Balcombe Street gang's triumphant appearance at Sinn Féin's conference was a mistake.

Dr Paisley called Mr Blair's third Belfast visit a "desperate last throw of the dice".

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British sea 'among dirtiest'

The water at British beaches is among the dirtiest in Europe and the quality is deteriorating, the EU Commission said yesterday. Beaches around Blackpool are the least healthy in which to take a dip, according to the Commission's annual report on 13,000 sea and inland bathing areas which are monitored for compliance with the EU's 1975 directive on water quality. Other bad spots are mainly along the Channel and in the southwest, although the area also boasts high-quality waters.

The countries with the cleanest seaside water are Belgium, Greece, Spain and Ireland, Denmark and Italy although all but Belgium have some poor spots.

World Cup case

Organisers of the World Cup have been brought before a Paris court, accused of breaking EU laws by following a "discriminatory" system of ticket distribution. Some 32 Members of the European Parliament have filed suit in Paris urging the court to force the French organisers to distribute 750,000 tickets allocated to corporate sponsors.

Challenge fails

Denis Riordan, a lecturer in marine biology at the University of Plymouth, failed in his legal challenge to stop the Irish Republic voting tomorrow in the referendum which, he said, was unconstitutional and could not proceed. He also claimed that the Irish Government had no right to release prisoners. Yes campaign, page 7

Hanging vote

A move that in effect blocks future Commons attempts to bring back the death penalty was carried by a 158 majority in a free vote of MPs last night. During the committee stage of the Human Rights Bill, MPs voted 294 to 136 to adopt two clauses of a European protocol that would place a constitutional bar on capital punishment.

Diana school

Mohamed Al Fayed will be the new owner of the Kent school where Diana, Princess of Wales was a pupil, after the Charity Commission yesterday accepted his £2.5 million bid for the site. The millionaire chairman of Harrods will now turn West Heath school in Sevenoaks, where Diana sat her O levels, into a school for traumatised children.

Weed's glory

A common garden weed has been awarded a prize at the Chelsea Flower Show in recognition of its contribution to the advancement of science in unravelling the genetic blueprint of other crops. *Thale cress*, or *Arabidopsis thaliana*, won a silver medal in the education and science section. It was exhibited by the John Innes Centre, Norwich.



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Protection in court for rape victims

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

RAPE victims, children and the mentally ill are to be given extra protection in court under a charter for vulnerable witnesses being prepared by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary. Rape victims will no longer face questioning about their sexual experiences. They will also be spared cross-examination by those accused who defend themselves. Counsel nominated by the court will step in on their behalf.

Releasing details of the plans yesterday at the annual conference of the Police Federation in Bournemouth, Mr Straw acknowledged a change in the way that police dealt with rape cases. Defendants needed protection but the victims of rape and other serious sexual crimes deserved protection too.

The proposals for children and disabled witnesses are expected to be announced next month and could include greater use of live video links. Better protection will be offered to victims and witnesses from the early stages of a case up to the court appearance.

The measures will be introduced in the autumn in a new criminal justice Bill.

Irvine wins over Labour MPs with tale of his roots

By JILL SHERMAN AND ANDREW PIERCE

LORD IRVINE of Lairg yesterday won over Labour backbenchers with a passionate declaration of his ideological roots and a humble aside about the £9,000 wallpaper affair.

Making the first appearance of a Lord Chancellor before Labour MPs, Lord Irvine sailed through what was widely expected to be a hostile grilling. Derry Irvine, one of the Prime Minister's closest allies, is also one of the most unpopular ministers, according to the latest poll.

But yesterday, MPs eschewed questions about Pugin wallpaper, tables and chairs and devoted their questions to more erudite matters such as amendments to the Human Rights Bill and the Freedom of Information Bill.

A well-prepared Lord Irvine charmed his way through 30 minutes of the Parliamentary Labour Party meeting, although some of the more vocal MPs, such as Dennis Skinner, left before he spoke. Some said that the Lord Chancellor was nervous and determined to endear himself to his Old

Labour critics. "He talked about the fact that he had been a member of the Labour Party since he was 17. That was a great friend of John Smith's, and that he was determined to abolish hereditary peers," said one MP. "He wanted to be one of us."

"He pitched it exactly right. He hit the right note," said another MP. "It was a good performance for someone who has never been to the PLP."

Others were slightly less charitable. "Well, he performed better than when he appeared before us," said one Welsh MP. Lord Irvine dismissed Tory attacks on the refurbishment of his apartment as "other hypocrisy," making clear that they had originally supported the programme. "This is a Grade I listed building, and the proposals were the unanimous decisions of House of Lords Committees, which included Tory members," he said. He regretted that the wallpaper issue had deflected attention from more serious matters, and thanked MPs for their support over the issue.

Promise of help for child migrants

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Government yesterday pledged to do more to relieve hardship and emotional distress among thousands of British subjects sent as small children to repopulate the far-flung corners of the Commonwealth with pure white stock.

Giving evidence to a Commons Health Committee inquiry, Tom Luce, head of the Department of Health's Social Care group, accepted that the Government had an important role to play in helping former British child migrants find official documents that would help them to trace their families in Britain and, in some cases, lead them to discovering their true identity and date of birth.

Mr Luce said, however, that the Government did not bear sole responsibility for the policy of child migration, under which more than 100,000 youngsters aged 3 to 17 were exported from children's homes to a supposedly better life between 1850 and 1967. The govern-

ments of Canada and Australia and other dominion territories that received the children, as well as organisations including Barnados and National Children's Homes which exported the children, also had a role to play. "We are ready to take future initiatives as soon as it becomes clear what the most sensible ones to make are," Mr Luce said.

MPs were told that child migrants were frequently mistreated and exploited. Some were told that their families were dead, others were split from siblings who were sent to different countries.

Mr Luce denied accusations from David Hinchcliffe, the Labour chair of the committee, that there had been a high-level cover-up of the child migration policy. He also denied a charge from John Austin, Labour MP for Enith and Thamesmead, that government departments had been guilty of "calculated deception" and "bureaucratic indiffer-

ence" in responding to requests from former child migrants for information. Mr Luce said that tracing the origins and families of former child migrants was fraught with problems. "It is difficult for people to trace their birth records if they don't know where they came from."

The committee heard evidence from two organisations representing the interests of former child migrants sent to Canada, where 11 per cent of the population are their descendants.

David Lorente, founder of Home Children Canada and the son of a former child migrant, urged the committee to create a centralised task force bringing together all the government departments and childcare organisations responsible for child migration, so that information and records could be accessed centrally.

The committee is due to hear evidence from the agencies responsible for exporting children abroad next month.

Past waits to catch up with freed nurse

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

LUCILLE McLAUCHLAN

UNKNOWN to her family, Lucille McLauchlan was sacked from her job at the Kings Cross Hospital, Dundee, for allegedly stealing £1,740 from a dying patient.

With a claim of gross misconduct hanging over her nursing career in Britain, she seized on the chance of a fresh start at the King Fahd Military Medical Complex in Dhahran. But after just a few months in her new job, she was charged with being an accessory to the murder of colleague Yvonne Gilford.

At first, her family, parents Stan and Ann McLauchlan, her brother John and fiancé Grant Ferrie were united in all their efforts on her behalf. Two lawyers, Peter Watson from Glasgow and Rodger Pannone from Manchester, moved by the family's plight, offered their expertise for free, as did the Glasgow public relations company Media House. For 1½ years, they campaigned tirelessly for McLauchlan's release.

But cracks in their relationship began to appear around November last year when Mr Ferrie, 30, a Dundee tyre-fitter, flew to Dammam Prison to marry McLauchlan. Her brother John attended the 20-minute courthouse ceremony. But her parents, Mr McLauchlan, 53, a former union official in the Dundee

shipyards, and Mrs McLauchlan, 50, a cleaner, did not. When asked at the time for their reaction to their daughter's impending marriage, they confessed, perhaps disingenuously: "It's news to us."

On his return from his wedding, Mr Ferrie entered into negotiations with several newspapers for the story of his romance with McLauchlan and the prison wedding snags. Yesterday it emerged that the publicist Max Clifford was acting as an agent for the Lucille McLauchlan story and a six-figure deal with The Mirror newspaper had been reached. The entire family are believed to be a secret location awaiting McLauchlan's return. And the two renowned lawyers, who worked without accepting any payment, appeared to be surplus to requirements.

Although the McLauchlans are well-liked by their neighbours, there were indications that their daughter could expect a mixed reception on her return home. The lucrative deal struck with The Mirror has divided opinion. John Thornton, 71, said: "I am definitely not celebrating and I think a lot of people in

Dundee will feel the same way. Nobody has thought of the poor lassie who was murdered. It's her I feel for."

A friend, Karen Rosso, 30, admitted some people believed there was "no smoke without fire". But Freda Garty, a former colleague, who launched at petition at the hospital pleading for her release, said: "I am absolutely delighted. I have always said Lucille was innocent."

A complaint was first made about Ms McLauchlan in March 1996 while she was working in the Aids ward of the Kings Cross Hospital. It was alleged that she took £1,740 from a dying patient using a stolen credit card. She was subsequently sacked in May for gross misconduct, and a report was sent by Tayside Police to the Dundee procurator fiscal.

Shortly afterwards, she left the country for a new life in Saudi Arabia, telling her family it was a good career move and that the higher wages at the King Fahd Military Medical Complex in Dhahran would help her save for her wedding. She had become engaged that March.

The Dundee procurator fiscal's office had no option but to put court action on hold. When confronted by the allegations in Christmas 1996 at the time of her arrest in Saudi, her parents and brother, an oil rig worker in Indonesia, confessed ignorance. After 17 months in Dammam Central Prison, McLauchlan will hardly have time to adjust to her new freedom, before she is ordered to appear at Dundee Sheriff Court on June 18.

Nigel Orr, Dundee's principal procurator fiscal deputy, confirmed that a decision will be taken on whether to prosecute her on an outstanding theft charge from 1996. "I would imagine that a decision would be taken fairly quickly," he said. "Of course, these are unusual circumstances and for that reason we would not wish to rush into it."



Grant Ferrie with Lucille McLauchlan: story sold

A closed trial at which the women were kept in dark

BY RICHARD FORD AND FRANCES GIBB

THE EVIDENCE REVIEWED

TWO hand-written confessions with each page marked with a thumbprint convinced Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan of the murder of Yvonne Gilford.

Although their release has been greeted with joy by their families, the women's convictions have not been quashed. Their sentences have been commuted to the period they have already served, and their release ordered.

So, in spite of controversy that the confessions were made after they were threatened with rape, they remain guilty over the murder. Parry and McLauchlan will doubtless claim that they are innocent. But is there any doubt who killed Yvonne Gilford?

Confessions: Parry and McLauchlan made their confessions during their interrogation after the discovery of Yvonne Gilford's body in block 44 of the King Fahd medical centre at Dhahran on December 11, 1996.

According to the confessions a violent argument erupted between Yvonne Gilford and Parry over the future of their lesbian relationship. Parry picked up a kettle and threw it at Gilford, who fell to the ground. Parry plunged a knife with a five-inch blade into her alleged lover and McLauchlan smothered her with a cushion.

Eight days later they were arrested in the Al Shola shopping mall after police were told the pair had been the last to see Gilford alive. The written confessions are fluent but there are asterisks and amendments in the margins suggesting that both women were made to elaborate on them.

They contain striking similarities. McLauchlan's statement starts by admitting that an earlier "confession" was "incorrect and incomplete". She speaks of a lesbian relationship between Ms Gilford, 55, and Parry.

"Debbie Parry went into Yvonne's kitchen and picked up the kettle which was sitting on the stove and threw it at

forehead. Yvonne fell and seemed dazed. I slapped her twice on the face to see if she was conscious which she appeared to be at the time."

The statement added: "She (Parry) unplugged the telephone, went into the kitchen and took a bread knife out of Yvonne's drawer. She came towards Yvonne and stabbed her under the breast ... Debbie sat on top of her and I saw her stab Yvonne in the neck and upper back."

"I held the pillow over Yvonne's face until she stopped making a noise. I must add I held the cushion over Yvonne's face until she was suffocated."

In her statement McLauchlan also admitted taking Ms Gilford's wallet and her bank card and memorised the pin number 4663 which was also in the wallet. She also gave a graphic description of the knife and she used Ms Gilford's bank card to withdraw cash.

In her statement Parry admits that she was having a lesbian affair with Ms Gilford and was upset when it ended and that all three had talked

until the argument went "out of control".

"Yvonne Gilford became aggressive and hit Lucille in the face. I then stood up and took a kettle from the stove and threw it, it broke, as it had hit Yvonne on the head, she was dazed but very angry."

The statement added: "I took a bread knife from the kitchen drawer. It had a serrated edge and stabbed Yvonne ... to her chest, neck and back." The statement goes on: "In the apartment the knife was washed and returned to the drawer, it was dried on a white towel from the bathroom by one of us."

In all they both wrote four confessions but only one from each, written on December 23 1996, was used in evidence. They were written without access to legal representation or British consular staff.

Granted a meeting with consular staff at the end of December the women alleged they had been forced to sign the confessions and were threatened with rape, touched sexually by their interrogators and were deprived of food,

water and sleep. Both women retracted their confessions.

They were never told what they were accused of as, under Saudi law, the charges are revealed only at the end, along with the verdict and sentence.

Motive: The end of the lesbian affair was put forward as one possible motive, but no evidence was ever produced in public.

A second possible motive was that Ms Gilford was a money lender who intimidated those who owed her money. Reports indicated that Ms Gilford abused her position as the senior nurse to withhold salary cheques from her staff, forcing them to borrow money from her at exorbitant rates.

Defence lawyers have suggested that hospital security guards operated their own money lending operation and had warned Ms Gilford not to jeopardise their sideline. Five guards were arrested questioned and freed. All were sacked.

Evidence: A main plank of the prosecution case was that the women had used the stolen credit card. Reports suggested that at least one withdrawal had been captured on video, but the film was never produced.

But the reports did say that on at least one occasion the person using a hole in the wall machine had requested English language instructions.

McLauchlan was later to claim that her handbag was taken from her on her arrest and it was returned with Ms Gilford's bank card in it. Parry is alleged to have transferred 2,000 Saudi riyals (£354) to her account in Alton, Hampshire.

A week after the killing, McLauchlan withdrew £800 from the account.

Scientific evidence: No evidence was ever produced publicly to prove that either of the women were in Ms Gilford's room on the night she died.

At their trial, the women spoke only to retract their confessions and deny murder. But despite their families' euphoria, Parry returns home a convicted murderer and McLauchlan an accessory to murder.



Sandra Ashbee, Parry's sister, leaving her Hampshire home yesterday

Remnant of death-haunted family relinquishes fight

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

DEBORAH PARRY

when she was 21, her 16-year-old brother, Keith, died in a motorcycle accident, days after leaving school. Within weeks, her mother, Eunice, drowned on a boating trip to Norfolk, taken to recuperate from the stress of her son's death.

Parry had just started nursing training and carried on her work in Oxford and Worcester. In 1967, her father, John, a flight engineer, died from a heart attack and her brother-in-law suffered a fatal brain haemorrhage. After treatment by bereavement

counsellors, she moved to Saudi and worked at the King Fahd Centre, where she was entrusted with the long-term care of a member of the Saudi royal family.

Two years later, she returned home as a staff nurse and helped to establish a pioneering post-operative care unit at Kingston Hospital in southwest London. She returned to the King Fahd complex in September 1996.

When Parry returns to Britain, amid fears for her health after coping with the spartan jail conditions less well than McLauchlan, she is expected to move in with her sister, Mr Ashbee, a banking executive, and their four children.

Ambassador denies that Blair held key to freedom

BY MICHAEL BINYON AND GRAHAM PATERSON

SAUDI ARABIA did not release the nurses because of any outside pressure or to safeguard trade with Britain, the Saudi Ambassador in Britain insisted yesterday.

Ghazi al-Gosaibi said that Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan had had their sentences commuted on humanitarian grounds. He said King Fahd had taken the action "as an act of mercy" in response to the petition presented by the two women and because the next of kin of the victim had waived his right to retribution.

Dr al-Gosaibi said that the release was not a response to Tony Blair's visit to Saudi Arabia last month. The petition had already been handed in, and the Prime Minister had behaved with delicacy and sensitivity, the ambassador said. "He did not demand, plead or urge the case of the nurses, and just asked the status of their cases."

Dr al-Gosaibi was convinced of the fairness of the trial, and denounced the "trial by media" in Britain. He said it was a proper trial, in a proper court. The judges were pious and experienced. "It is incredible that they would convict if they were not 100 per cent convinced that the women were guilty."

The Ambassador, who has held lengthy talks with British officials about the case for the past two years, expressed bitterness that every such incident in Saudi Arabia immediately raised questions in Britain about trade and political links. "These cases come and go, but relations between our countries rest on a solid basis," he noted, wryly, that some newspapers seemed almost disappointed that the women were not executed.

However, a European diplomat in Riyadh said last week: "This has bogged down the British Embassy for the last two years. They are terrified of anything that could hit the £20 billion defence deal and they are terrified of the tab-

loids back home." Dr al-Gosaibi said there was no provision to transfer the women to prison in Britain because the two countries had no such arrangement. He did not think any such provision should now be made: there were 30,000 Britons living in Saudi Arabia, and only about two or three criminal cases came to court each year.

Saudi Arabia was not afraid of a backlash from the allegations made by the nurses when they arrived in Britain. "There is no risk to Saudi-British trade and no risk to our relations."

However, a Saudi businessman with close links to Britain explained that his country was intensely proud of its achievements, and highly sensitive to any criticism that would tarnish its image as a theocratic state that deserved its custodianship of Mecca. "I fear the

THE SAUDI REACTION

tabloid newspapers will use [the nurses' release] as another opportunity to attack the Kingdom," he said.

The Ambassador said that the women had not been favourably treated because they were white and English. Black English citizens would have been treated the same way; so would black Ethiopians. "They were put in the same prison as anyone else."

He would not comment on whether 17 months was sufficient punishment for murder or whether the women should be paid for their story. "This was not a matter for Saudi Arabia or its Ambassador," he said, noting that there was a "lively debate" in Britain on the issue of criminals being paid for their stories. He said the argument over payment of the "blood-money" to the victim's brother in Australia did not concern Saudi Arabia. "It is none of my business nor that of a Saudi court. I have no idea what he keeps and what he gives to charity."



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Yvonne Gilford: ran money-lending scheme for nurses

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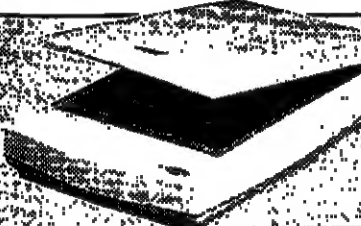
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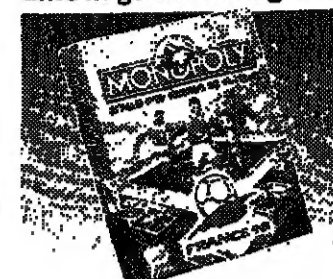
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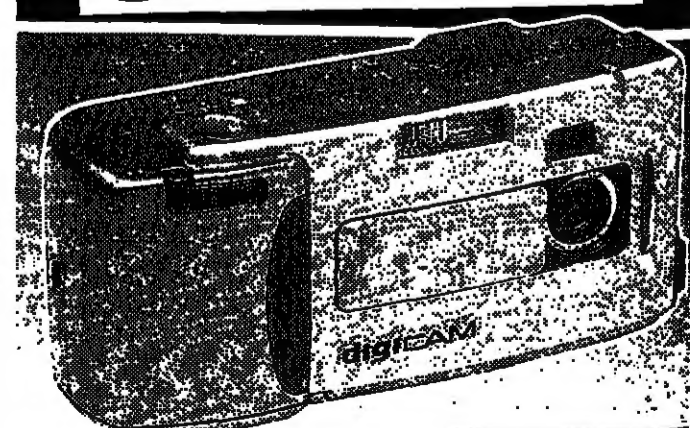
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Cheese tradition rolls to an end

The downhill race after Double Gloucesters is not safe, say police.
Damian Whitworth reports

THEY have been perfecting the art of spinning cheeses at great speed down the side of Cooper's Hill for a few years now. According to some in the Cotswolds, it was the Romans who first set the Double Gloucesters rolling at Witcombe, near Gloucester.

But this year the Whitson tradition will not happen. The authorities say it is just too dangerous.

The police and health and safety inspectors have a point. Last year 35 people were injured, seven of them spectators hit by runners who lost control while chasing the cheeses down the incline.

But the racers themselves assert their rights to pursue any cheese they wish and are furious at the intervention of the "nanny state".

As many as 25 to 30 people would normally take part in each race, hurtling after wheel-shaped 7lb Double Gloucesters. The cheeses are sent bounding down the one in two gradient. Although catching the cheese is impossible, the winner is the person who first reaches the foot of the hill.

The organisers say they have come under such pressure from the police and health and safety authorities over the dangers and because of fears of litigation from injured parties, that they have had no choice but to cancel the event.

"It's terribly sad," said Tony Peasley, who has been a big



The cheese-rolling race gets under way at Cooper's Hill in Gloucestershire. Last year 35 people were injured

cheese, so to speak, in the races for some 43 years. "Admittedly, people get injured every year — there are sprains and dislocations and the occasional broken arm or leg. But no one has ever been killed or suffered any lasting injury or disability as a result of racing down the hill."

"It's just a robust country pursuit which is a lot of fun. After last year's races I had calls from magazines and TV stations in Canada, Germany, America and Japan — the interest was intense."

"It's taken place for hundreds of years without stopping, even in the war years when a wooden cheese was used because of rationing. But now it seems we live in a nanny state society where people aren't allowed to do anything risky or have fun, and the authorities intervene to protect people from themselves."

He said the 15-member Cooper's Hill Cheese Rolling Committee had decided that demands on safety and insurance from the police and the landowners, Gloucestershire County Council, were too difficult to meet for this year's event. But the committee hopes that with enough precautions the races will be revived next year.

The problems for the organisers began when Gloucestershire police asked for a meeting with the committee after the carnage of last

year's races. "The police came up here and looked at the venue and pointed out the potential dangers, which we were already fully aware of," said Mr Peasley, a retired fuel control engineer. "We felt that runners were taking the risks of their own choice but the police said this might not stand up in court if there was litigation."

"Then we had a letter from the county council land agent asking for assurances about public safety. They particularly asked us to give them an assurance that the Health and Safety Executive had been involved in the planning of the event — which, of course, they haven't. How could they ever be happy about an event like this?"

Mr Peasley said the last straw for the organisers this year was when they could not get the Gloucestershire Cave

Rescue Service to help. Local cavers have attended for the last few years, climbing the hill to rescue people who were injured on the way down.

Superintendent Phil Sullivan, of Cheltenham police, said: "We can't and don't want to stop it but we want it properly organised so the emergency services aren't overburdened."

Over the past few years the popularity of the event has

grown to such an extent that several thousand people have lined the hillsides to watch the four downhill races. But there has been criticism that many of the racers were drunk and hurtled themselves down the hill without a thought for their own safety.

Some historians say the cheese-rolling dates from the time when the Phoenicians chased withy hoops down the hill as a fertility rite.

Golfer may be banned for his £189,000 drive

By Matt Dickinson

AN AMATEUR golfer is facing a two-year ban from competitions after winning a £189,000 Lamborghini for a hole in one.

Derek Lawrenson won the car as he played at a tournament while partnered by the Liverpool and England footballers Paul Ince and Steve McManaman in a corporate golf day.

His three-iron shot yesterday at the Mill Ride Golf Club in Ascot flew 198 yards from the 15th tee and dropped into the hole. The feat won him one of the two black and silver, 208mph Lamborghini Diablos — top speed 208 miles per hour and 0-60 in 3.8 seconds — positioned next to the hole as an incentive. "Suddenly Ince and McManaman were mobbing me and rolling all over me like I had just scored the winning goal at Wembley," said Lawrenson, who plays off a handicap of eight.

His win, however, attracted the attention of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, the arbiters of the rules of golf and staunch defenders of the line between amateur status and professionalism.

The R and A's rules stipulate that the maximum prize for a hole in one at any non-professional event should be £200. In collecting the keys to the car,

Lawrenson, 37, golf correspondent for *The Sunday Telegraph*, would be exceeding the limit.

"The rules are very clear and designed to keep golf a largely self-regulating game on a handicap system," Grant Moir, assistant secretary in the rules department of the R and A, said. "If there is the introduction of large prizes, it could lead players into temptation. The enjoyment of the game is that it is for pleasure and not profit."

"In taking the car, a player would not be a professional but he would become a non-amateur. He would not be allowed to hold an official handicap as such. He could not play in open amateur events or represent his club against other clubs. He can reapply but the normal period is ten years."

For Lawrenson, the loss of amateur status appeared to be something he could learn to live with last night, despite the thought of not representing his Midlands club, Moor Hall, for the next ten years.

"The only thing I have really had to consider is whether to take the car or strike some agreement over a cash equivalent," he said.

Golfing temptation, page 49

Pilot cleared of causing death crash

THE father of a boy who died in a helicopter crash last night pledged to pursue a private prosecution after the pilot was acquitted of negligence (Gillian Harris writes).

Captain Robert Hobson, 56, from Penicuik near Edinburgh, walked free after Sheriff James Scott ruled that there was insufficient evidence for the trial to continue. The decision infuriated the parents of Garry Mulvey, nine, who was killed last July during a pleasure flight for handicapped children.

Garry's father, Thomas Simpson, said the ruling at Forfar Sheriff Court was "rubbish". He would be appealing "as soon as possible".

The crash happened on July 13 at an event organised by Noel Edmond's charity, Airborne, at Glanis Castle in Angus. Garry and four other children were on board when the Bell Jet Ranger aircraft, owned by Kwik-Fit, became entangled in wire fencing.

Father condemns killers' sentences

By Gillian Harris, Scotland Correspondent

A FATHER whose son was beaten to death by three Scottish teenagers because of his English accent condemned the four-year jail sentences handed down to his killers yesterday.

Malcolm Ayton, whose son Mark, 19, was killed in a drunken brawl near his home in the affluent Edinburgh suburb of Balerno, said that Ross Gravestock, 16, and Iain Wheldon and Graham Purves, both 17, should have been jailed for at least ten years.

"When someone gets killed with a kicking to the head then gets a few years for it, that is not appropriate punishment in my view," Mr Ayton, a tax inspector, said after sentencing at the High Court in Edinburgh.

At the week-long trial in Glasgow, which ended two weeks ago, Gravestock, Wheldon and Purves changed their plea from not guilty to murder to guilty to the lesser charge of culpable homicide. Mr Ayton, 48, wrote to the judge, Lord Eassie, criticising plea bargaining and urging him to treat the teenagers as murderers.

Passing sentence yesterday, Lord Eassie said that although the youths' conduct had been deplorable, the degree of violence was "relatively minor".

Mark Ayton, who was brought up in the Midlands before moving to Balerno six years ago, was killed last November. His killers were pupils at a rival school who followed Mark and his brother Paul home from a pub, shouting taunts about his English accent.

When they attacked, they used such force that the imprint of their shoes could be seen on Mark's forehead. His body was found by Paul, who had become separated from him during the fight.

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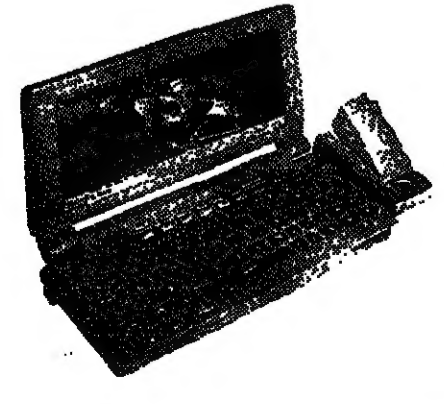
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Mugger jailed for death of charity worker

By RICHARD DUCE

THE last words of a charity worker stabbed through the heart by muggers were, "Tell my girlfriend I love her and would have married her", the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

Marc Lane-Martin, a Labour Party activist who was photographed with Tony Blair during the election campaign, had devoted his free time to working with the unemployed and underprivileged when he was confronted by Delroy Snuggs and another mugger, who remains at large.

He was taken to Hammersmith Hospital in West London, where it was realised that there was a huge puncture wound in his heart.

Dorian Lovell-Pank QC, for the prosecution, said: "Once he realised his condition was going downhill, he told one of the nurses to tell his girlfriend that he loved her and he would have married her."

Snuggs, 19, who is unem-

ployed, from Acton, West London, had denied murder but yesterday admitted manslaughter and robbery. He was sentenced to 12 years' youth custody by Judge Michael Coombe.

Mr Lane-Martin, 30, a marketing consultant with the Communication Workers' Union, had been walking to his West London home from a meeting at a community centre when he was attacked by the two youths last July. The court was told that he was carrying a satchel that the muggers thought might contain a laptop computer. After he was stabbed and the bag ripped from his shoulder, Mr Lane-Martin staggered into the path of a motorist, who raised the alarm.

Mr Lovell-Pank said police later recovered the stolen bag, on which there were traces of Snuggs's fingerprints. Police also traced telephone calls

from his home to police and to the hospital.

Michael Massie, representing Snuggs, said he was frightened of naming his fellow attacker for fear of reprisals against his family. His mother, a nurse, had already been attacked and had moved.

Mr Massie said that, although Snuggs knew that the other man was carrying a knife, he had not known he was going to use it.

Mr Lane-Martin's mother, Weesha, said last night: "He was such a peaceful man. His death has left a terrible gap."

Mr Lane-Martin worked with the unemployed at a centre in West London and was a school governor. Just before the election he took a party of children from Colville Primary School in West London to meet Mr Blair. He had become interested in Labour before studying economics at Kingston University.



Marc Lane-Martin was stabbed through the heart

Trainee's roasting for town hall over coffee

By ROBIN YOUNG

RHIANNON DUFFY was delighted to be chosen for a business administration course with her local council under the Youth Training Scheme. But she walked out after 12 weeks in which she reckoned she had made 3,360 cups of coffee.

When Miss Duffy, 18, complained that she was required to brew 56 cups of coffee a day, her boss told her: "It's all part of your job."

Yesterday Miss Duffy, disappointed that her role as a council office receptionist turned out to be a continuous round of coffee distribution to senior staff at Labour-controlled Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, said: "If Tony Blair is serious about creating good jobs for young people, then he should look first at how his own Labour councils run things."

A council spokeswoman said: "We take training of our young people very seriously. The staff in the office insist the most she ever made the coffee was twice in one day."

West's cousin gets four years for sex attacks

By A CORRESPONDENT

A COUSIN of the killer Frederick West was jailed for four years yesterday after being found guilty of sex attacks on three teenage girls.

William John Hill, 45, was convicted of one rape and three indecent assaults that took place when the girls separately visited his former home in Much Marcle, Herefordshire, between 1976 and 1984. None of the girls told of the sex attacks for at least 13 years. His arrest arose from the investigation into Rosemary and Frederick West at Cromwell Street, Gloucester.

Hill, now of Putley, Herefordshire, had sex with one girl in an upstairs bedroom every morning during a week's visit, as his elderly stepmother prepared his breakfast downstairs. His wife Ruth, a mother-of-three, fought back tears in the public gallery at Birmingham Crown Court as her husband was taken down.

Judge Peter Crawford, QC, the Recorder of Birmingham, told him: "You took advantage of your age and their youth and inexperience and, in the case of one victim, you exercised your power over her by forcing sexual intercourse upon her first the first

time in her life. Following these incidents, you appear to have lived a blameless life.

"You are married and you have a young family. It is perfectly plain that any sentence I impose will affect not only you, but your family.

"They are being punished for what you did all those years ago. In spite of your good character and in spite of the long period of time that has elapsed, you must immediately go to prison for a substantial time.

"If it had not been for the long lapse of time, you would have gone to prison for six or seven years."



Hill: arrest arose from the West investigation

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'Yes' vote offers small comfort in Poyntzpass

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

ANN TRAINOR will be backing the peace accord in tomorrow's referendum. So will Cecil Allen. She is Roman Catholic, he Protestant. Both have paid a dreadful price for Ulster's hatred. On March 3 their sons, best friends, were killed by gunmen in the village of Poyntzpass, and they are praying that the Province's two communities will vote to end their ancient quarrel so that other families will be spared their agony.

They hope that Poyntzpass will be the last of the atrocities that have punctuated the last 30 years of the Troubles in Northern Ireland. And in their still-raw grief, they draw some small comfort from believing that the terrorists who came by night to try to wreck the peace process created such revulsion that they actually spurred on the politicians.

Eleven weeks after the killings, a veneer of normality has returned to the farming community, hidden in the green hills of Armagh, where there had never been sectarian trouble before. Tractors rumble down the roads where thousands of mourners stood in pouring rain to witness the funeral processions of Damian Trainor and Philip Allen. The window boxes on the sunny main street are full of flowers,



Damian Trainor, left, and Philip Allen. Ann Trainor rarely leaves her home except to tend the grave of her son. "Damian, it's Mummy," she whispered after he had been shot, but it was too late for a reply

and the villagers exchange greetings as they pass.

But there was not one customer in the tiny wood-panelled Railway Bar at lunchtime yesterday. This was where the two men were drinking orange juice and discussing Mr Allen's wedding when the two masked gunmen burst in, ordered the seven customers to lie down and opened fire.

There are still chipped tiles on the floor and Bernadette Canavan, the 67-year-old landlady, points out the shattered glass and bullet hole in

the door through which she crawled to safety.

In the neat Catholic and Presbyterian churchyards, a stone's throw from each other, the two graves await headstones. And in Mr Trainor's large brown house, across the road from the family garage, the curtains are closed and his mother hides herself away.

"Every day is the same to me. I can't cry. I really don't know how I'm coping," Mrs Trainor says. She visits her 26-year-old son's grave every night, but no longer goes to Mass, no longer walks through

the village, no longer sees the Allen family and no longer goes into the nearby town of Banbridge because that is where the killers, members of the Loyalist Volunteer Force, came from. "They were sick and evil," she says.

Beside her chair are two boxes overflowing with unanswered letters of sympathy. On the table lie numerous pictures of her dead son. His yellow repair van still sits beside the garage, and she still expects to hear him coming in the back door after work and tramping up the stairs.

She recalls how she rushed to the bar that night and found him lying on the floor. She touched his hand and it was cold. She said, "Damian, it's Mummy", but he was already beyond replying and died on the way to hospital. There she touched his forehead and closed his eyes. "Thank God they didn't hit him in the face," she says.

Mrs Trainor agreed to talk "to let the world see what pain we are going through". She knows little of politics, and does not believe the accord will end killing, but sees no

alternative. "I hope it will keep the evil and violence away and let people of different religions live in peace. I pray to God it's passed to help us all."

Mr Allen lives in a low, pebbledashed house around the corner, almost opposite the Railway Bar where two of his other sons were also drinking that night. It used to be his local but, he says, "it will be a long time before I go through that door again".

He is a thin, haggard man whose pain is almost palpable. "Hell's not the name for it. People say it will get better as

time goes on but it gets worse." He cannot sleep. His health has deteriorated. Friends and acquaintances leave him alone because they do not know what to say.

"I got up that Tuesday morning and thought it was a normal day. I never suspected what I was going to have to go through. It just ruined my life."

Like Mrs Trainor, Mr Allen does not believe the accord will mean instant peace, but it offers hope at least. "What are we going back to — the same old trouble again? Something

has to be done. You just can't go on and on and on. You've got to live with your neighbours," he says.

"If the people that did it could see the hurt our two families have been through..." he begins, but trails off.

Four men were arrested for the murders, but only three will stand trial. The fourth, David Keys, was beaten and strangled by Loyalist Volunteer Force colleagues in the Maze prison after he co-operated with the police.

Leading article, page 23

Branson lures voters with cash pledge

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

RICHARD BRANSON and Mo Mowlam hugged and kissed their way along the streets of Belfast yesterday, hoping that a last-minute love-in might persuade doubting voters to say Yes in tomorrow's referendum.

The Virgin chairman had come to help Dr Mowlam, and promised to invest in Northern Ireland if the people voted in favour of the Belfast agreement. He will open more Virgin record stores and cinemas and may even invest in the railways and open an airline between Belfast and Britain. He said other international companies were also waiting to invest if people voted Yes. Mr Branson added: "I'm

not trying to bribe people, it is just that these are the facts. You get one chance on Friday and for God's sake vote Yes for the safety of your country and the future of your children."

His appeal came as old ladies crowded him and Dr Mowlam looking for lucky autographs on the back of lottery tickets. Mr Branson told them that they lived in a "beautiful country with beautiful people". Most of the women heaped praise on Dr Mowlam for her hard work in knocking the men's heads together and producing the Belfast agreement. There were a few comments of scorn about prisoner releases and decommissioning but the strongest attack came from a Catholic classicist carrying a copy of Aeschylus's *Oresteia*

under his arm. The 43-year-old man said that despite his Oxford education he had spent the past ten years washing dishes while his Protestant colleagues got senior posts at Queen's University. "Northern Ireland is rotten to the core with discrimination," he shouted at Dr Mowlam over the oranges and apples at the street market.

The Secretary of State, buoyed up by an opinion poll showing that she is more popular in Britain than Tony Blair, was unfazed. Dressed in a lilac dress and coat with matching headscarf she was relaxed and in control — possibly as a result of hitting policemen on her way to meet Mr Branson. She told 60 students at the Belfast Institute of Further and High-

er Education that she relieved stress by hitting her guards in the stomach as they stood to attention. "There is no doubt that by the end of an 18-hour session you get tired and grumpy. I did not sing and I did not drink... I used to punch the policemen in the stomach to see how good their stomach muscles were. That is the best fun I had in the talks," she said.

Dr Mowlam said Mr Branson's presence was "a sure sign" that a Yes vote meant a better future for Northern Ireland's youth.

The Virgin chief finished his whirlwind tour last night and went back to London but not with his rival, British Airways. "I know that if I was ever caught on a BA flight at 30,000ft I would be shown the door," he said.



Mo Mowlam and Richard Branson promoting the Yes vote in Belfast yesterday

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Title role: one of Wigtown's 16 bookshops that are expected to bring 50,000 extra visitors a year and a new prosperity to the town, right, after unemployment had soared to double the national average

Bookshops open new chapter for town

Gillian Harris plots a project on the Scottish border to create a rival for Hay-on-Wye

AS SOME of the world's leading writers descend on Hay-on-Wye this week for its eleventh annual literary festival, another little town off the beaten track is seeking similar recognition.

The inauguration of Wigtown, in Dumfries and Galloway, as Scotland's first "book town" may have provided Hay-on-Wye with its first serious British competitor.

For 37 years, the small market town on the Welsh border, which boasts 26 bookshops, has enjoyed a monopoly of attracting bookworms eager to browse through an estimated two million tomes or to take part in the celebrity-studded junket on the banks of the River Wye that begins on Friday.

Organisers in Wigtown have, for the time being, ruled out a major literary festival with all the authorial self-promotion that entails. But Stephen Norris, their spokesman and the town butcher, emphasises Wigtown's literary heritage. Gavin Maxwell, who wrote *Ring of Bright*

Water, came from the area; Robert Burns lived and worked near by; Sir Walter Scott composed his *Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border* at his home in the undulating countryside. And Wigtown has no fewer than 16 bookshops.

Hay-on-Wye offers readers vast quantities of old library stock. Wigtown hopes to provide a greater collection of specialist literature. Book dealers are moving into the town. Robin Richmond, who has come from Watford, is one of the world's largest suppliers of crime fiction. The Old Bank Bookshop sells texts on natural history and antique furniture.

Wigtown has secured £400,000 in funding for the next three years. Formerly derelict buildings round the town square are freshly painted to house the bookshops that have opened in recent months.

A year ago, the 1,000-strong town was fighting for survival. A series of job losses at creameries and the closure of a distillery caused unemployment to soar to 17 per cent, twice the national average. The town became dependent on a trickle of tourists.

According to Roy Surplice, chairman of the book town committee, Wigtown's economic decline was one of the main reasons that the Scottish Tourist Board and Scottish Enterprise chose it over five rivals for the project. "They were looking for somewhere with plenty of empty property that could be used for book-related businesses. We fitted the bill. But more than that, it

was something we really needed."

Wigtown's victory was greeted with delight, even by those who professed not to care about books. "It was as if the town had been given a self-confidence boost," Mr Surplice said.

There used to be just one one bookshop in Wigtown. Alastair Reid, a New York-based poet and essayist who was born in the neighbouring

village of Whithorn, is amazed by the change. "When I was growing up, I don't recall seeing a book in Wigtown, let alone a bookshop," he said. Mr Reid, 71, is one of the literary guests who returned to Wigtown last week to celebrate the launch of the book town project.

With an estimated 50,000 extra visitors a year expected, hotel owners in Wigtown look certain to have a good time.

The County Hotel, which has been "semi-closed" for some time, has re-opened for the book town celebrations. The Old Wigtown House Hotel, which stopped taking overnight guests last year, will once again offer accommodation in the summer.

"There are real economic benefits to the region from Wigtown's designation as Scotland's book town," said Colin Bell, development execu-

tive at Dumfries and Galloway Enterprise. "Existing tourists and new visitors will spend more and stay longer in the area," Mr Norris agrees. "You'll always get those who think books could never have any economic impact on the town, but most people are supportive," he said.

Yesterday Peter Florence, the Hay festival's director, welcomed the arrival of Britain's second book town. "I

think it is fantastic," he said. "I have only been to Wigtown once, but it seems to me that it is just as inaccessible and off the beaten track as Hay, so it should benefit from this endeavour. The second-hand book economy is very important and it will be interesting to see whether or not it will work in Wigtown." Hay-on-Wye used to have two hotels and four pubs. Now it has 120 hotels to cope with the 25,000 festival visitors.

Books, pages 40, 41

Stalker is jailed for seven-year harassment

By A CORRESPONDENT

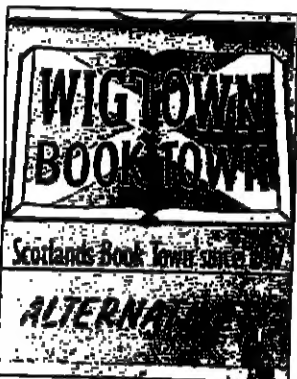
AN OBSESSED man who wrote more than 100 "sinister and distressing" letters over seven years to a student who turned down his request for a date was jailed yesterday.

In one of them, Gary Watson told Emma Rawling, whom he met while she was working part-time in a bar before going to university: "I am the chosen one. We have to get together and have a golden child."

Miss Rawling, now 28 and a British Steel manager, handed ten letters to police in 1992 and Watson was warned not to contact her again. Five years later, he hand-delivered a 155-page letter that had taken him more than three months to write. Teesside magistrates were told.

In September, Watson, 28, stalked her at a nightclub. Nikki Nelson, for the prosecution, said: "He asked her if she had read 'The Letter' and it made Miss Rawling even more terrified that he had made physical contact." A month later Watson hounded her at another nightclub and punched two girlfriends trying to protect her.

Watson, of Thornaby-on-Tees, was given 12 weeks' jail for harassing Miss Rawling and another ten weeks for the assaults. He admitted the offences and was banned from contacting her.



The literary boast does not extend to apostrophes

Escaper comes home to roost

By PAUL WILKINSON

DIANA the homing pigeon has done it again. Only months after escaping and setting a record for travelling nearly 1,500 miles from Spain back to its old loft, it has twice got free and returned home again.

This time it did not have to travel so far to reach its former home in Skipton, North Yorkshire. The first occasion was from Filey, 75 miles away; the second just across town.

Now the bird's former owner, Dino Reardon, a champion breeder, has accepted defeat, renamed it "Boomerang", and allowed the pigeon to stay home. Mr Reardon, 66, who parted with his birds last autumn after retiring from the pigeon fancying business, said: "She keeps coming

home because she loves me and she loves her loft. But I don't have the loft any more, so she's living in a cardboard box."

Boomerang's father, Bluey, was a world champion that three years ago was stolen for breeding. Its kidnappers clipped its wings, but Bluey escaped and walked 60 miles home.

Mr Reardon said: "I originally gave her to this Spanish pigeon breeder who came to collect her after hearing about Bluey. But she escaped and flew all the way back."

"Then I gave her to a man in Filey. She wouldn't settle so I visited every day and she perked up." But Mr Reardon stopped visiting after five months and she came looking for him.

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Cuts must not affect schooling, lords rule

By MARK HENDERSON

A TEENAGER suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome, known as ME, won a landmark legal victory in the House of Lords yesterday against a council's decision to cut her home tuition.

Five law lords ruled unanimously that East Sussex County Council had been wrong to reduce Beth Tandy's home tuition from five to three hours a week after cuts in its education budget. The council was not entitled to consider expense when fulfilling its statutory duty to provide a "suitable education" for Miss Tandy, 16, because her needs had not changed, the law lords decided.

More than 100,000 children with special educational needs could benefit from the ruling, which means that councils will not be able to take the resources available into account when meeting their statutory duties on education. Tuition levels must now be assessed purely on grounds of educational need.

Miss Tandy, from Lewes, is now sitting GCSEs in English literature, English language and mathematics. She has suffered from myalgic encephalomyelitis since she was seven and stopped attending school in February 1992. She received five hours a week of home tuition until September 1996, when the council cut its

A CONTROVERSIAL CONDITION

Myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), known officially as chronic fatigue syndrome, is one of the most controversial of medical conditions. Doctors are divided over whether the debilitating illness is a genuine physical condition or all in the mind. Whatever lies behind the condition, there is no doubt that it can cause great suffering, including long periods of weakness and lethargy which, in extreme cases, can leave sufferers bedridden. They also complain of headaches, aching muscles, sleep disturbance and mood swings. Exercise appears to make the symptoms worse — but excessive rest is no help either.

Many people with the condition become depressed but whether depression is a clinical symptom of the illness or simply a natural reaction to it is not always clear. According to the Royal Colleges, between 1 and 2.5 per cent of the population suffers from ME. The term was originally used in 1955 to describe an outbreak of unexplained illness affecting staff at the Royal Free Hospital in North London. The nickname "Yuppie Flu" was coined in the 1980s.

home tuition budget from £100,000 to £25,000, and announced that Miss Tandy would then get just three hours teaching a week.

Miss Tandy and her parents successfully challenged the cut in the Divisional Court last April, but the council had the ruling overturned in the Court of Appeal on a 2 to 1 majority.

The House of Lords yesterday reinstated the Divisional Court's judgment, by Mr Justice Keene, that the council had taken into account the "irrelevant consideration" of expense, that the cut was made for the "improper purpose" of saving money, and

that it was "irrational" to expect Miss Tandy to pass GCSEs with the reduced teaching.

Lord Browne-Wilkinson said: "To permit a local authority to avoid performing a statutory duty on the ground that it prefers to spend the money in other ways, is to downgrade a statutory duty to a discretionary power."

Miss Tandy's mother, Hilary, said they were delighted with the ruling. "It has made our fight worthwhile," she said. "Children with ME and other illnesses can use this judgment to get the education they need. They

are not ill through any fault of their own. They deserve a good level of education."

Miss Tandy said yesterday: "ME means that I get very fatigued and suffer from mental and physical exhaustion. There is no way I would have been able to pass my exams if I'd only had three hours a week with my tutors. There is so much course work to be done and books to read, I need as much time as possible talking it through with my tutor."

William Garnett, the family's solicitor, said that it was a landmark judgment that would ensure the needy were protected from local government spending cuts. "This is a very, very bold decision of the House of Lords. We are not going to go down the road of allowing statutory duties to be worn away because there isn't the money. It is also a marvellous victory for Beth. For any child to take on the organs of the state and win is a great result."

East Sussex's statutory duty to provide education for Miss Tandy ends next month when she completes her GCSE exams, but at least one other younger child in the county has been awaiting the outcome of the case before learning whether her tuition would be cut.

East Sussex County Council said in a statement: "We are studying the judgment care-



Beth Tandy, who will have her five hours of home tuition formally restored after the law lords' decision

fully and reviewing our policy in the light of the announcement. Throughout the legal process, the county council has kept Beth's level of home tuition at the original five hours per week."

The ME Association welcomed the ruling. "This is a victory for common sense," it said.

Graham Lane, chairman of the Local Government Association's education committee, said: "It is about time the situation was clarified. There

are lessons for the Government as well as for local authorities... If the Government keeps capping budgets, it is responsible in the end." The judgment is in contrast to one last year on social services provision, in which

the law lords ruled that Gloucestershire County Council was within its rights to deny cleaning and laundry services to a disabled man because of a lack of resources.

Law report, page 43

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Exhausted father left teething baby to sleep in car

By A CORRESPONDENT

A MAN put his nine-month-old son to bed in his car at night so that he could escape the teething baby's crying.

A court was told that Alexander Hunter left his son Martin strapped into his car seat with a half-empty bottle of milk, a dummy and a toy. A special constable discovered the child in the early hours of February 6, covered by only a blanket.

Hunter, 28, from Paulsgrove, Hampshire, yesterday admitted exposing a child to cruelty and was sentenced to 150 hours community service.

Magistrates at Portsmouth were told that Hunter and his common-law wife were exhausted because of the sleepless nights caused by the baby's teething.

Hunter took his son to the car with the intention of taking him for a drive to lull him to sleep. But the father went back inside his home and unintentionally dozed off while sitting on his bed, leaving the child strapped into the car on a street near by.

Shirley Jeffers, for the prosecution, said that the baby was found an hour after being put inside. Special Constable Keiron Holyome, 19, said: "I glanced into the car as I walked past and thought I saw something unusual."

"When I realised it was a baby I couldn't believe my eyes. The car was open and when I lifted the little chap out he looked me straight in the face and just started beaming at me."

The baby, who was born prematurely, was taken to hospital where he was declared fit and well before being released into the care of social services.

The magistrates were told that he was currently being looked after by a relative of the parents.

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Shops freed to set own price on TVs and fridges

THE Government yesterday ordered an end to the recommended retail price system, and paved the way for reductions of up to 25 per cent in the price of some electrical goods.

Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, announced measures that she said would increase competition in the sale of televisions, hi-fi systems, washing machines, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers and other electrical goods. The orders also apply to video-cassette recorders, camcorders and tumble driers.

Mrs Beckett said that manufacturers would no longer be permitted to tell retailers at what price the goods should be sold and said they would be banned from refusing supplies to stores that offered discounts. The move follows a report by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) last year.

Mrs Beckett said yesterday: "I am determined that practices that restrict competition should be stopped. Retailers should be free to set their own prices and should not be refused supply because of their pricing. Consumers should not be denied the benefits of strong price competition."

It will become illegal from September, when the orders come into force, for suppliers to suggest recommended retail

An end to retail pricing controls on electrical goods will bring savings. Robin Young reports

prices to stores, and retailers will be guaranteed liberty to determine their own pricing policies.

Suppliers will be required to set down their criteria for selecting which outlets to supply and will not be allowed to base their choice on the retailers' pricing policies. It will be illegal not to supply stores that meet the manufacturers' criteria and any store refused goods will be able to demand a written explanation.

Retailers will no longer be able to ask suppliers to refuse goods to rivals selling at discounted prices. Mrs Beckett said: "These remedies should ensure that discount retailers can obtain supplies and all retailers have the freedom to sell goods at prices of their choosing. Consumers will have a wider choice of outlets, and benefit from more competitive pricing. These are

tough remedies, but tough action is needed to remedy the problems identified by the MMC and bring benefits to consumers."

The MMC report said that retail prices for electrical goods were being inflated by "widespread and entrenched practices" among suppliers and dealers. New retailers found it hard to get supplies and innovative retailing was being discouraged.

Andrew Fisher, senior policy adviser at the Consumers' Association, said prices could now fall by as much as 25 per cent, especially for washing machines which, he said, were often sold at inflated prices.

He predicted the move would also lead to a resurgence of warehouse shops selling goods at more deeply discounted prices.

"It's an excellent move for the consumer," he said. "For the first time ever there will now be true competition on the high street. Prices will come down, I'm quite sure of that."

Tesco is to sell thousands of televisions at knock-down prices a week before the World Cup. The supermarket giant has struck deals with two manufacturers to supply sets to hundreds of stores. Nearly 14,000 Fidelity 14in sets will go on sale for £99 and 10,000 Amstrad 28in sets will be sold for between £200 and £300.



David Ashford, who believes that the Ascender could be built for £50 million

The 8ft model, made of foam and wood, in the air

Model spaceplane gives glimpse of daytrips to come

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

AN ENGINEER'S dream of transporting tourists into space had a small-scale breakthrough when an 8ft model of his spaceplane successfully completed two test flights.

David Ashford, designer of the delta-winged Ascender, believes that it will one day take intrepid trippers on sub-orbital flights. On May 8 he set his sights a little lower with the five-minute radio-controlled test flights at Wroughton, Wiltshire.

Mr Ashford admitted that the model, made of foam and wood and powered by two model aircraft engines, was "a small start". The aeronautical engineer believes that Ascender could be built for £50 million — the price of one jet fighter.

The craft is designed to take off from an ordinary airfield with a crew of two and two passengers. Once five miles up, the pilot will start a rocket engine to take it

beyond the atmosphere for a brief sub-orbital flight. A recent report by Nasa and the Space Transportation Association said that the dream of some day taking a trip in space is finally approaching realisation.

Mr Ashford says that Ascender could be flying into space within three years, and carrying passengers within seven.

WildWings, a travel agency in Bristol, has started taking bookings for space flights. John Brodie Good, of WildWings, said: "Ascender is the leading candidate for creating a revolution in the way we carry out space business. It is a more realistic and supportable project than its several US competitors."

The obstacle is investment. Each member of Mr Ashford's ten-man team at Bristol Spaceplanes Ltd has another job to support himself. "I am looking for corporate sponsorship or for a wealthy individual," he said.

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MPs want inquiry into supermarket meat sales

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

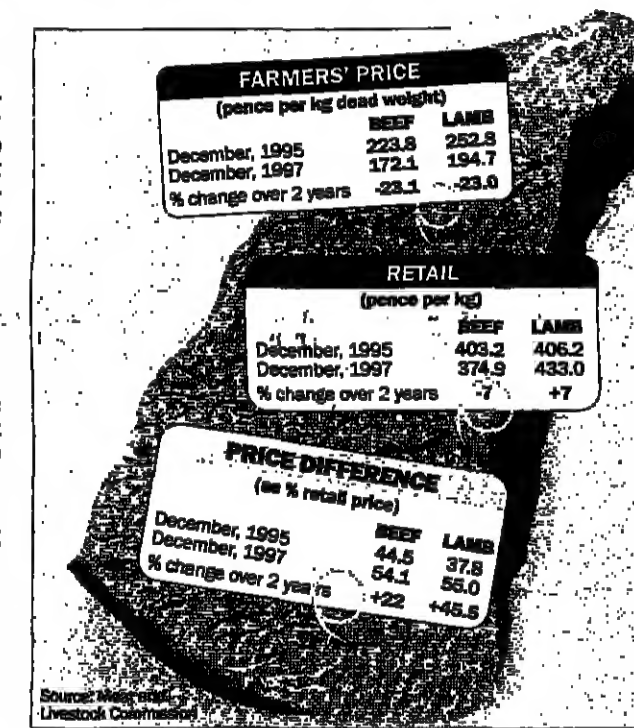
A COMMITTEE of MPs yesterday called for an inquiry by the Office of Fair Trading into allegations that supermarket pricing policies were deepening the financial crisis in the livestock industry.

The Commons Welsh Affairs Select Committee said that sheep and cattle farming in Wales would be "destroyed within a decade" unless emergency aid was forthcoming to reverse its decline. Cattle prices had fallen by 30 per cent over two years, and lamb prices by 39 per cent in a year, the MPs said, but there had been no comparable decline in shop prices and farmers' share of the retail price had "fallen markedly".

Martyn Jones, the Labour chairman of the cross-party committee, said: "The price spread — the difference between the farmers' price and the retail price — actually increased while prices in cattle markets were going down."

In their report the MPs said: "On the basis of the evidence available to us, it does not appear that supermarkets have been profiteering at farmers' expense, but they have clearly not been suffering greatly either... It is essential that supermarkets do not use their position of strength to force meat prices down further."

Evidence submitted to the committee by the Meat and



Livestock Commission showed that producer prices for beef and lamb had fallen by about 23 per cent over the two years from December 1995 to December 1997. Over the same period, however, shop prices of beef had fallen on average by no more than 7 per cent, and those of lamb had actually risen by 7 per cent. The farmers' share of the retail price had dropped from between 55 and 62 per cent to 45 per cent.

Supermarkets yesterday de-

nied that their mark-ups on beef and lamb were excessive. The British Retail Consortium, representing the leading chains, said: "We are pleased the committee has concluded that supermarkets have not been profiteering at farmers' expense."

Alan McLaughlin, a senior spokesman for Tesco, said: "There has been a big increase in costs in the middle of the food chain because of the measures taken to combat BSE."

BROADCASTING STANDARDS COMMISSION

Complaint by Barratt Developments PLC - Summary of Adjudication

The Broadcasting Standards Commission has upheld in part a complaint from Barratt Developments plc about a programme in Channel 4's *Dispatches* series called *Brown Land*, broadcast on 21 November 1996. The programme concentrated on residential development of former-use sites and investigated information given to prospective purchasers about the history and condition of the land. The programme featured six former-use developments by national housebuilders, four of which had been built by Barratt. Barratt complained that the programme unfairly singled them out for treatment; the interviews with various interested parties were misleading or inaccurate; and the programme's tone and presentation of Barratt's views and policy were unfair. Barratt also complained that secret filming of their sales agents was unfair and an unwarranted infringement of Barratt's privacy.

The Commission considered that pictures of cracks in a property belonging to an interviewee implied that the damage could have been caused by land-fill. Although the programme's commentary said that investigations into the cause of damage were inconclusive, the Commission considered that the pictures outweighed the commentary and found some unfairness.

The Commission also considered that the programme did not make it clear that the comments of another interviewee were made about Barratt as housebuilder rather than vendor and found that was unfair.

The Commission considered that a surveyor's comments about information available to Barratt concerning landfill gas at the time of the development and sale of one of their sites gave the misleading impression that he had been involved in the preparation of a ground investigation report for that site. The Commission found that the use of his opinions in those circumstances was unfair.

The Commission did not uphold any of the other aspects of the complaint.

Accordingly, the complaint was upheld in part.

You may obtain a copy of the full adjudication by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: The Broadcasting Standards Commission, 7 The Sanctuary, London, SW1P 3JS

Cinema soundtracks blast audiences out of seats

FROM DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT, IN CANNES

EAR-SPLITTING films are in danger of driving audiences from the cinemas, movie makers were told yesterday. The message of a debate at the Cannes Film Festival was loud and clear: the industry must meet the complaints of a public that can no longer stand a bombardment of explosions, screams and gunfire. The problem has grown so acute that audiences are complaining not only at the cash desk but also at the town hall, said John Wilkinson, chief executive of the Cinema Exhibitors' Association, who was one of the panellists. Local authorities were testing sound levels as a result, he said. He recalled a premiere where the producer turned up the volume so high that "it shook everyone's tummy". Mr Wilkinson said: "It's daft. We want people to have a great night out and come back."

While the younger generation seems not to have a problem with noise, the over-30s are suffering. They like to hear the dialogue but it is often drowned out or distorted. Barry Norman, the television film critic and another panellist, said that he was entirely on the side of the generation that grew up on a diet of Hollywood greats from the 1930s to 1950s, when "the sound was clear and dialogue was paramount". He accepted that young people had already shattered their eardrums and lived with noise throughout their lives, but went on: "Sometimes, I

can hardly bear the noise. I go to the projectionist and say, 'Turn it down or I'm going home'."

In Steven Spielberg's *The Lost World*, "a lot of the dialogue passed me by. There is far too much use of natural or background noise in a mistaken attempt at realism."

Even the most seasoned critics have complained at this week's festival preview of *Armageddon*. Jerry Bruckheimer's special effects pro-

duction, attacking its "barrage of deafening sound". The continuous level of noise in such films, rather than occasional loud sounds, was criticised yesterday.

Per Halberg, the Oscar-winning sound designer and editor whose movies include *Braveheart*, agreed that most films were too loud. But he said that setting the right level could be a guessing game, distorted by a cinema's often inferior sound system, the

individual projectionist and countries' different noise-level standards. It meant audiences were never quite hearing what the director intended.

The actor, director and producer Mario Van Peebles expressed irritation that commercials, on both the large and small screens, had become so much louder than the shows themselves. With television, he said, "I just click them off. You can't do that in the theatre. You're held hostage. That's when I go popcorn hunting."

The panellists agreed that noise levels are going up partly because the ever-developing technology is there, tempting film-makers to use it even when not needed. Peter Cowie, the international publishing director of *Variety*, which staged the debate, said "sound design" had become so sophisticated that the restored soundtrack of *The Godfather* included purring from the cat on Marlon Brando's lap.



Van Peebles: deafened

Film reviews, pages 36, 37



Brooke Shields, in Cannes to promote *The Weekend*, blows a kiss to camera

THE DISTURBING ART OF NOISE

Legal cases have been threatened in America after claims that volume levels in cinemas have damaged film-goers' hearing. But the issue is complicated because levels are decided by directors and sound companies before a film's release. Cinemas try to keep to the director's wishes but can turn the sound down.

The loudest recommended level for films is 85 decibels, equivalent to standing next to a busy main road. But in the train crash scene in the 1993 film *The Fugitive*, levels reached 103 decibels. At 120 decibels the level is the same as standing next to a pneumatic drill. Michael Deener, Dolby's cinema application engineer, said: "Films can be so loud that the cinema turns them down, the directors find out and so make their next film even louder. It is ridiculous."

Foreign films 'urgently need room for a view'

BY DALYA ALBERGE

ONE of the world's leading producers yesterday attacked the way "money and greed" were excluding European art films from British screens. Ismail Merchant, the Anglo-Indian producer who established Merchant Ivory with James Ivory and made classics such as *A Room With A View* and *The Remains of the Day*, said: "Fewer and fewer good films are being distributed in Britain. What is being done is an unhealthy destruction of foreign films coming to Britain."

He blamed "money and greed... a big crocodile eating the little ones". Art cinemas were being forced by commercial pressures and a lack of support from the industry or the Government "to show blockbusters rather than great films that happen to be subtitled. That is a tragedy."

Speaking at the Cannes Film Festival, where *A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries*, about an American family in Paris in the 1960s is among his latest movies being promoted — he said that audiences were losing out because of the closure of prominent art cinemas such as the Academy and the Lumiere in

London — bought by property developers — and others in Cambridge, Oxford, Birmingham and Manchester.

The problem, he suggested, was the stranglehold of commerce on the industry: companies bought up movies and needed to make the most of the lucrative subsidiary market in video and cable.

He expressed sadness at the "push-button approach" — the desperation to make \$40 million (£24 million) in the first week. "We are copying the Americans instead of being original. France is still the country for cinema."

He called on the Government to intervene, perhaps with tax incentives for art cinemas: "Unless the Government does something in Britain, we will go down the tube. We have to fight this so those distributors get the support from government."

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, said yesterday: "I am not sure that tax incentives in the cinema-owner end of the scale is necessarily the way forward."

He added: "There are independent cinemas not just in London. There is the infrastructure. It is a matter of encouraging them."

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Welfare to Work helps just 800 single parents

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

JUST 800 single parents have found work under the Government's first Welfare to Work programme to be put into practice, the New Deal for single parents.

Early results from pilot projects in eight areas, covering 72,000 single parents with children of school age, show that the scheme has had a success rate of between 1 and 2 per cent in its first ten months of operation. Among people signing on for the first time, it has been more successful, with 7 per cent of participants finding work.

Despite the low take-up of the scheme, social security sources said that the results were encouraging. They said that if the figures were repeated nationally there would be between 5,000 and 10,000 people having found work out of the 500,000 unemployed

single parents with school-age children.

"For a completely new programme starting from scratch, these results are good," a source said.

Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, said the independent Social and Community Planning Research figures showed that the New Deal was having a measurable impact on the lives of single parents and their children. Those who had found jobs through the scheme were on average £39 a week better off.

The State had also benefited, she said, because the value of benefits paid to single parents who had found a job under the scheme had reduced by £42 a week.

"With more lone parents working, there will be more families better off, and fewer children being brought up in

workless households," she said.

Unless the programme produces more striking results, however, pressure is likely to grow on the Government to introduce an element of compulsion into the programme to ensure that single parents attend jobcentre interviews.

The New Deal for single parents, which was extended nationally to all new claimants from last month. The scheme was launched in July 1997 and provides a personal adviser to help each single parent with training, childcare, benefits and job preparation. The programme is voluntary and is aimed at those on income support whose children are of school age.

The cost of launching the New Deal for single parents in the first ten months of its operation in the eight pilot areas was about £6.5 million, compared with an estimated saving in state benefit of about £1.5 million.

Ministers hope to see an accelerated success rate as the programme becomes better known and as the personal advisers become more skilled. They also hope that the take-up will improve as the Government's national childcare strategy is implemented, providing after-school clubs and childcare subsidies.

Ministers ill-informed

MINISTERS were kept in the dark by Social Security Department officials about a scheme to prevent disability benefit fraud (Nicholas Watt writes). They waited a month after the general election before informing Baroness Hollis of Heigham, the minister supposed to be in charge of the scheme, which had been

introduced by the Tories. The officials told her over her mobile phone at Preston railway station. The oversight was revealed in a report by the Social Security Select Committee. The report criticised the department's timing of the the Benefit Integrity Project, which it said uncovered hardly any fraud.



Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, celebrated 25 years in the Commons yesterday. Her colleagues presented her with a fruit cake laced with brandy and sherry and bearing an edible model of the mace. There was a candle for every

Celebration is in order

year that she has been an MP since winning West Bromwich in a by-election. Miss Boothroyd said

she had not seen many changes at Westminster but new MPs nowadays had more confidence than she had in 1973. "At the time the Chief Whip told me to keep my trap shut — and just speak when you have something to say."

Cook's hubris is the real source of all his troubles

ROBIN COOK is not nearly as bad a Foreign Secretary as he has recently been painted. But then no British Foreign Secretary any longer has the chance to be either as good as he claims or as bad as his opponents charge.

Foreign policy is now largely about incremental steps here and there. Big leaps forward are seldom on the agenda. So Foreign Secretaries are best advised to be modest. The real reason why Mr Cook is now in trouble is that he entered office claiming to have made a completely fresh start. He is paying for his hubris.

As so often, the best corrective to the hype has come from Douglas Hurd, who has become even more headmasterly since he left office. In a speech to the Tory Reform Group this week, Lord Hurd of Westwell argued that Mr Cook's problem was his style and method, not his foreign policy, where there had been considerable continuity with the Major Government.

He cited the approach to the Gulf crisis in the early spring. Bosnia (though the Blair Government has been more aggressive about pursuing war criminals), enlargement of the European Union, Cyprus, the Arab-Israeli dispute and Hong Kong. Lord Hurd underestimates the personal impact of Tony Blair in Europe, even though claims about leading Europe are overblown and often counter-productive.

Lord Hurd maintained, with rather a grand flourish, that "New Labour has stood on Tory shoulders and carried forward what we were trying to achieve. Like every incoming Foreign Secretary of any party, Robin Cook altered the compass by a few degrees."

According to Lord Hurd, Labour had carried forward existing discussions about landmines and an International Criminal Court, and altered by "a word or two" the criteria for overseas arms sales.

Mr Cook would no doubt argue that he has done more. But his claims have undoubtedly run well ahead of his achievements. His emphasis on the ethical dimension of foreign policy has always looked humbug, pious aspirations with little connection with the realities of British

interests. Similarly, as Lord Hurd argued, the Annual Report on Human Rights vastly exaggerated the shift in policy over the past year. All Foreign Secretaries balance human rights with trade and security interests in their contacts with authoritarian regimes.

Lord Hurd had sympathy with Mr Cook over recent episodes which have got him into the headlines. "I did not criticise him when he found himself in a pot of bubbling stew first in India during the Queen's visit and then in Palestine. Indeed I felt a twinge of sympathy as I remembered how nearly I had been boiled alive when venturing remarks on both the Kashmir and the Arab-Israeli dispute. These things happen. Sometimes a Foreign Secretary finds himself in a predicament from which there can be no happy outcome."

Mr Cook's position now is

**RIDDELL
ON POLITICS**

worse both because of the grand claims he made a year ago and because, in Lord Hurd's words, "the engine of government is clanking and grinding unhappily". The Foreign Office is not working as it should. That is partly as a result of Mr Cook's prickly style. But in a sense this is a symptom of a wider problem — the tendency of many ministers to behave as if they were still in opposition and to be distant from the Civil Service.

Mr Cook is confident that he will be exonerated by the Legg inquiry. But he has been damaged. Perhaps he now regrets that he decided against going north and becoming First Minister in Edinburgh. He remains the foremost advocate of constitutional reform in the Cabinet, alongside Lord Irvine of Lairg. So perhaps later in the Parliament he might become constitutional supremo, especially if Mr Blair opts for electoral reform at Westminster. That is a cause which Mr Cook would lead with gusto and passion.

PETER RIDDELL

IN PARLIAMENT

Today in the Commons: Treasury questions; debate on European Common Agricultural Policy; short debate on Amos Vale cemetery.

In the Lords: Magistrates' Courts (Procedure) Bill, Commons amendments; Tax Credits (Initial Expenditure) Bill, all stages; European Communities (Amendment) Bill, third reading; Contracting Out (Functions relating to National Savings) Order; Broadcasting (Percentage of Digital Capacity for Radio Multiplex Licence) Order.

More cash promised for NHS

TONY BLAIR promised more money yesterday to bring down hospital waiting lists, but said that it would be provided only when higher health service spending was "prudent" (Polly Newton writes).

He made the commitment during Prime Minister's Questions in the Commons after taunts from the Tory leader, William Hague, about Labour's pre-election pledge to cut waiting lists by 100,000. Figures due out today are expected to show that the number of people waiting for operations has gone up by 130,000 since last May.

Mr Hague said the Prime Minister should be ashamed of the Government's "complete and utter failure" to keep its promises.

Mr Blair said: "We've put some £2 billion more than Conservative spending plans into the health service and we will put more money in over the next few years."

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Lack of funds stifles hope for Parkinson's sufferers

New operation brings applause and tears of joy, but the chance to have it is restricted, Ian Murray reports

A BRAIN implant for Parkinson's Disease sufferers was licensed for use yesterday after trials showed it can dramatically reduce the violent shakes that make their lives so difficult. However, most health authorities are refusing to fund the £15,000 treatments, and most patients will be from Ireland and Holland, whose Governments are prepared to pay for their care in Britain.

The restriction was criticised by Mary Baker, president of the European Parkinson's Disease Association, who said the operation was the only long-term hope for many sufferers, as medication usually ceased to control the condition after about ten years. "It may cost a great deal, but so does providing full-time care. And you cannot put a price on quality of life."

"Satch" Sandercock is one of the patients whose life has been changed, and he volunteered to be put on show yesterday when the device was granted an EU-wide licence. The electrode in his brain, connected to a small generator beneath the skin of his chest, enables him to swim, shave, dress, feed himself and enjoy a pint in the pub. Six months ago, he could do none of these things.

He was diagnosed with the disease in 1983 when he was 37 and working as a builder and decorator. Medication initially controlled the condition but

within ten years he was forced to give up work and by 1994 he was using a wheelchair to move about his home at Crediton, Devon. Neurologists at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital referred him to Bristol where Steven Gill, a consultant neurosurgeon at the Frenchay Hospital, was investigating ways to remove brain tissue that causes the shaking. He burned out a tiny malfunctioning piece of tissue, no more than 4mm across, that had sent wrong signals.

Mr Gill operated in 1996. For a short while, Mr Sandercock was able to regain

control of his right-side limbs. But within a year, the illness began seriously to affect his left side. Mr Gill knew that another operation to remove tissue would have a 30 per cent risk of removing the ability to speak. He decided that the best hope was a pioneering technique developed in France, which involves inserting an electrode into the brain, powered by a generator that sends a mild stimulation to block the wrong brain signals.

The target area is 1mm. To find it, the patient's head is immobilised and passed through a magnetic scanner. Mr Sandercock's wife,

Maggie, 53, was in the theatre last November watching the four-hour operation. When the electrode was in place, her husband had to be woken so the surgeons could watch how he responded when it was fired.

Twice Mr Gill tried without success, moving the electrode point microscopically between attempts. The third time, Mr Sandercock's body relaxed and he stopped shaking. "Everyone in the theatre broke into applause," Mrs Sandercock said yesterday. "I was crying. Suddenly I had my husband back again."

Yesterday Mr Sandercock stood in front of a press conference looking relaxed, then wiped a small magnetic switch across his chest. Instantly his body began to shake and twist. "I usually do this to music," he joked. The movements became more tormented. This was how he was before the implant. He switched on the device again, and everyone sighed with relief.

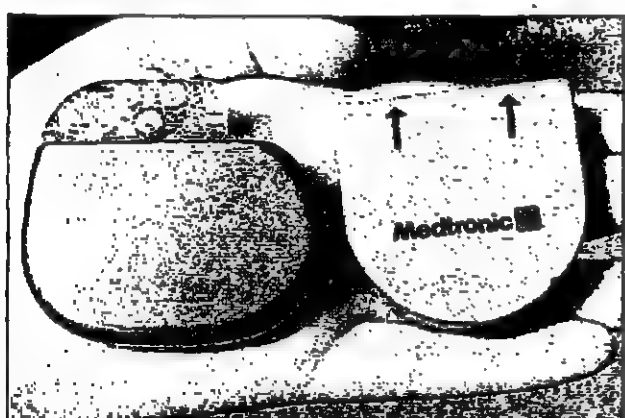
The device works at two speeds, the intermediate one controlling some movement but allowing him to speak more loudly and to save current on the battery, which needs to be replaced every four

to five years. The £4,000 unit under the skin of the chest is replaced in a relatively simple operation. The electrodes in the brain are permanent, but can be removed if they cease to be effective.

About 30 patients in Britain have been fitted with the device, but Mr Sandercock is the first to have the electrode implanted below the thalamus, the walnut-sized knot of nerve cells at the centre of the brain which acts as the switchboard for all sensory perceptions. Successfully fitting it there means the treatment should be effective for more than 90 per cent of Parkinson's patients who no longer respond to normal medication.

The operation is so difficult that only three hospitals in Britain are prepared to attempt it regularly. Apart from Bristol, they are King's College Hospital in London and the Dundee Royal Infirmary. Mr Gill, the Bristol neurosurgeon, said he was treating patients from Ireland and Holland — the treatment is not available in their countries — but hardly any were being referred in Britain.

He said of the national funding problem: "They don't want to provide the money because they say the treatment is not proven. They say we must carry out randomised trials but won't provide the money for this. I don't know of any case that has failed."



The chest generator, left, and external activator



"Satch" Sandercock at home. His wife said: "Suddenly I had my husband back"

Scientists find damaged gene linked to cervical cancer risk

By NIGEL HAWKES

A GENETIC variation that makes some women seven times more likely to develop cervical cancer has been discovered.

Women with a particular version of the gene for a protein that protects against cancer are the ones at risk, Alan Storey and colleagues from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund report in *Nature*.

The protein, called p53, is one of the first lines of defence against cancer, and many cancers are linked to damage to the p53 gene. In this case, the team says, the gene

is stopped from working by a protein produced by a virus, the human papillomavirus, believed to be a cause of cervical cancer.

What happens is that the protein binds to the p53, and helps to break it down. But natural variations in p53 determine just how effective this process is. Women with a form of p53 that is easily broken down stand a much greater chance of getting cervical cancer.

The variation occurs at a single point along the p53 protein, at position 72. The amino acid at this point may be either proline, or arginine. If it is arginine, the p53 as

a whole is far more easily broken down. Those in whom both copies of the gene produce a protein with arginine at position 72 are especially vulnerable. "In future, testing for p53 status may prove to be another useful tool in assessing a woman's risk of developing cervical cancer," Dr Storey said.

The findings also have implications for skin cancers linked to HPV infection and exposure to sunlight. Organ transplant patients, who take drugs to suppress their immune systems, have a high risk of developing this type of cancer, called squamous cell carcinoma.

Nature beats nurture for top athletes

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

TOUGH guys are born, not made, scientists have discovered. Those with the right genes can climb higher and respond better to training than those with the wrong ones, probably because their muscle cells are better at taking up nutrients and oxygen, according to Hugh Montgomery, of University College London Centre for Cardiovascular Research.

This is the first gene to be found that influences athletic performance in endurance sports. The best marathon runners and mountaineers are likely to possess the gene, the team believes.

The gene involved is responsible for making angiotensin-converting

enzyme (ACE). The role of this enzyme in the body is to convert a peptide, angiotensin, from an inactive to an active form, which in turn causes contraction of the muscles and raises blood pressure. People with high blood pressure are often prescribed ACE inhibitors to suppress the enzyme's activity.

The hope is that understanding the ACE gene will help to reduce damage in heart attacks and strokes, when blood supply is blocked and a means of enabling cells to make the most of what is available could save lives.

The ACE gene is found in two forms in human beings, one known as the D and the other as the I form.

Because we all carry two copies of each gene, this means there are three possibilities: we may have two copies of D, two of I, or one of each. The UCL team took DNA samples from 25 mountaineers, all of whom had proved able to climb above 7,000 metres without supplementary oxygen. When compared with most British men, more of the mountaineers had the I form.

Then Dr Montgomery's team examined 123 army recruits. It found that a quarter had the I form, 60 per cent the DD form, and 15 per cent the DD form. The team measured the length of time each recruit could flex his elbow while holding a 15kg weight, and mea-

sured it again at the end of a ten-week training programme. Again, it reports in *Nature*, it was the I types who did best, showing an improvement as a result of fitness training which was 11 times greater than that shown by the DD types. The DD types fell between the two extremes.

The result does not show that DD types are destined to be the weaklings caricatured in body-building advertisements, but that they are certainly at some genetic disadvantage if they try to climb Everest without oxygen. No women were tested, but there is no reason to doubt that women would have a similar genetic variation.

LAURA ASHLEY

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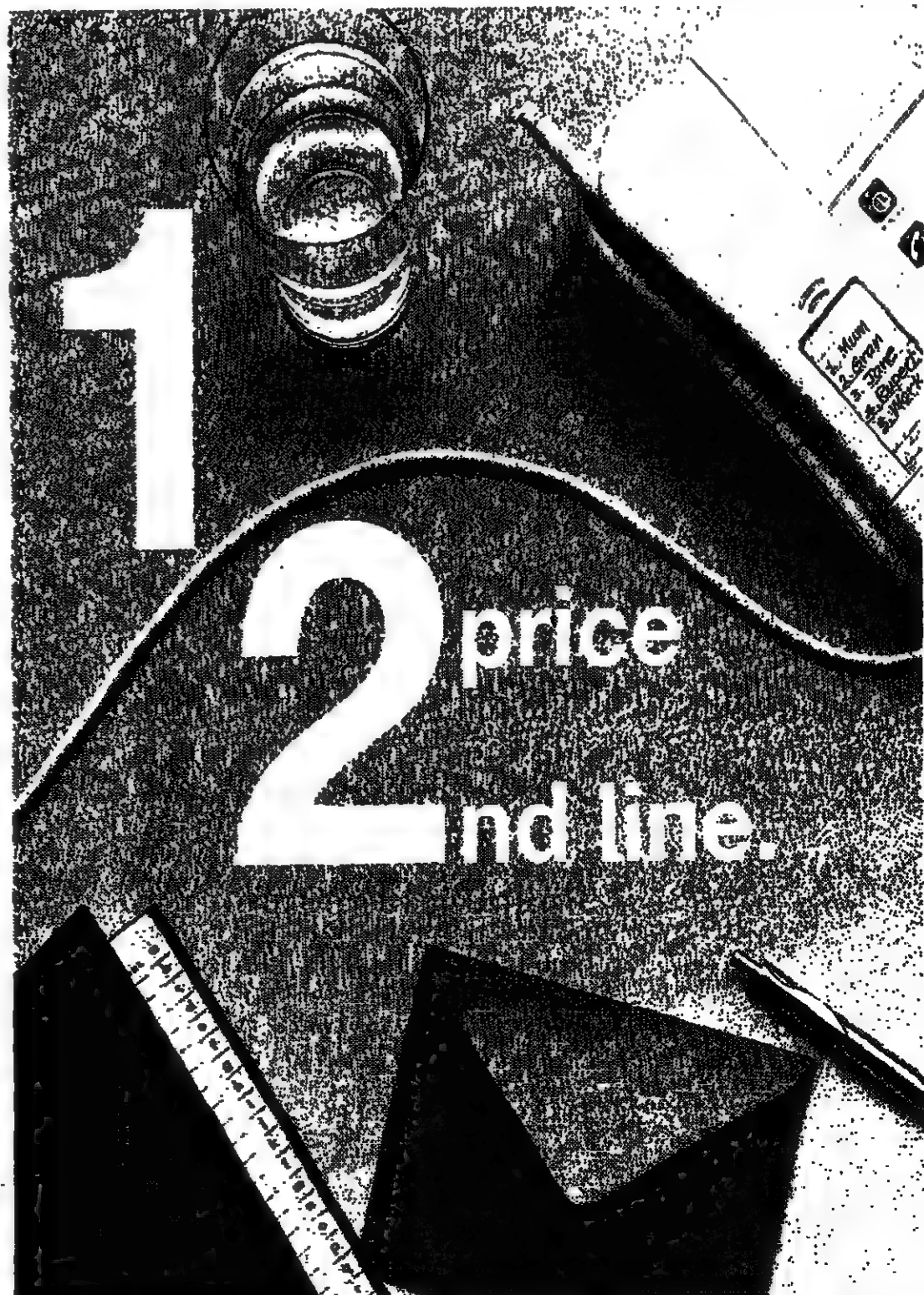
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Iran opens door to new era of European detente

BY MICHAEL EVANS

A NEW era of relations between Iran and the European Union has been opened after the first positive talks between a senior Foreign Office official and his counterpart from Tehran.

If other planned "substantive" talks between officials in the next few weeks produce equally positive results, Derek Fatchett, the Foreign Office Minister responsible for the Middle East, could head a delegation to Tehran, the first such visit since the Iranian revolution in 1979.

The breakthrough in diplomatic relations, which have wavered between crisis and stalemate for nearly two decades, has been made possible because of the perceived moderate leadership of President Khatami since he took power last August. Although the Foreign Office, which took part in the talks on Tuesday in Brussels because of Britain's position as President of the EU, was being cautious about future relations with Iran, the "step-by-step" approach could also eventually lead to the return of a British ambassador to Tehran. The embassy has been headed by a chargé d'affaires since 1990. In the 1980s, Britain's relations with



Fatchett might lead a visit to Iran for talks

Tehran were based on a British interests section in the Swedish Embassy.

The talks in Brussels between Derek Plumbly, director of Middle East Command at the Foreign Office, and the senior Iranian official focused on the agenda for more detailed meetings on political, economic and cultural relations, which are expected to lead to contacts between ministers.

Despite the more positive atmosphere between Iran and the EU, there remain five key issues that could still undermine the improving relations unless President Khatami can demonstrate that he has the political power to resolve them.

They are: the fatwa against Salman Rushdie, the author; Iran's weapons of mass destruction programme; its continuing role in state-sponsored terrorism; Tehran's poor human rights record; and its unhelpful position on the Middle East peace process.

A visit by Mr Fatchett to Tehran is one option if the

talks with officials make progress in these five areas. Britain hands over the EU presidency to Austria on June 30, but will remain part of the so-called EU troika of ministers for another six months. The troika would probably go to Tehran.

The EU had previously held a "critical dialogue" with Iran, but those talks did not progress beyond a bout of shadow boxing with Tehran over Mr Rushdie, the evidence of state-sponsored terrorism and the other issues that prevented Iran from being accepted as a normal member of the international community. The critical dialogue was suspended after Iran was accused of being behind a terrorist bombing outrage in a restaurant in Berlin.

The new talks are aimed at giving maximum encourage-

ment to President Khatami to pursue his moderate policies, which are opposed by the more radical clerics, and in particular by Ayatollah Khamenei, the spiritual leader.

The change in atmosphere between Iran and the West was boosted last week after the EU summit with President Clinton in London when the United States ended the threat of American sanctions against companies trading with Iran. The biggest stumbling block for Britain, however, is the death sentence imposed on Mr Rushdie in 1989 by the late Ayatollah Khomeini after publication of his book, *The Satanic Verses*. Tehran has said the fatwa cannot be revoked.

A Foreign Office official said that if a ministerial visit to Tehran was arranged in the future, it would be highly symbolic. However, it was likely, the official said, that the first ministerial discussions would be held in Europe. The official said: "No decision has been made yet. At present we are just dipping our toes into the water."

In a recent interview with CNN, President Khatami made it clear that he was interested in starting a dialogue with the United States.

Tehran consents to political party

Tehran: A group of senior officials backing Iran's moderate President Khatami has won government permission to form a political party, with Gholam Hossein Karbaschi, the Mayor of Tehran, as its secretary-general, it was reported. But on the day of the announcement, Ayatollah

Muhammad Yazdi, the head of the judiciary, confirmed after an investigation that Mr Karbaschi is to be tried on corruption charges.

The party, the Servants of Construction, is among the first authorised in the country since the 1979 Islamic revolution. The group, popularly

known as G-G, was formed on the eve of parliamentary elections two years ago by six centrist officials. It was instrumental in mustering the support of voters behind Mr Khatami during last year's presidential polls in which conservative candidates were defeated. (Reuters, AFP)



President Khatami, whose perceived moderate leadership has made possible the potential breakthrough in diplomatic relations between Brussels and Tehran

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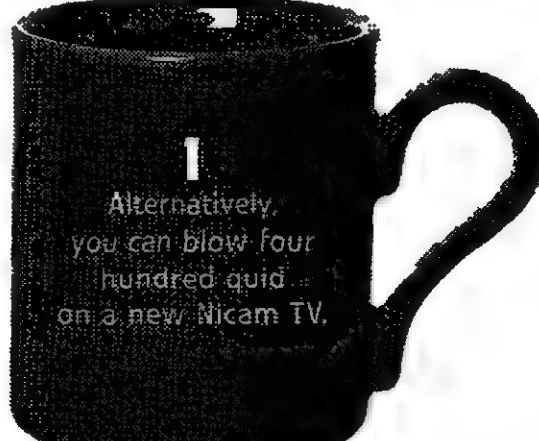


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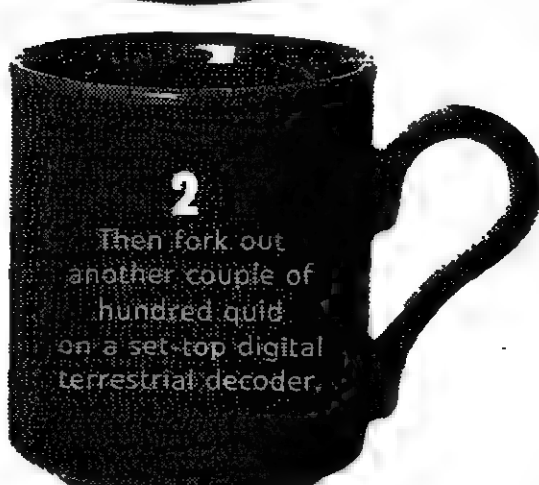


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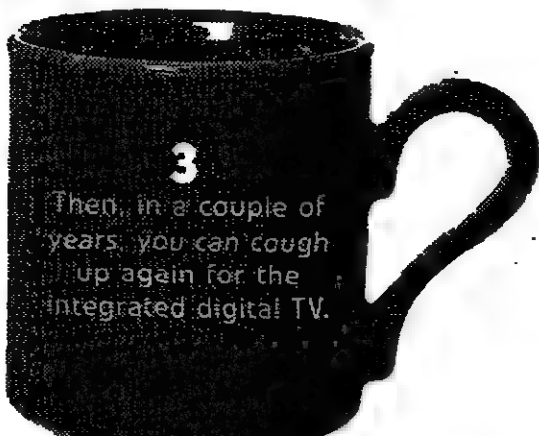
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Bhutto adds to pressure for Pakistan nuclear test

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ISLAMABAD

DAYS after deciding that it would explode a nuclear device, the Pakistan Government is divided over whether to go ahead — and if so, when. Indecision has brought a clamour of protests by opposition parties demanding an immediate demonstration of nuclear equality with India.

Benazir Bhutto, the Opposition leader — back in the country after another of her frequent foreign trips — is demanding that a nuclear test be conducted swiftly. Some right-wing religious parties are expressing their desire for the immediate development of an "Islamic bomb" in response to India's race to be the first to put nuclear tips on its missiles.

The odds may still favour a Pakistani test, given the huge public support for one, but the dithering has left the impression that the Government is seeking a face-saving way of doing nothing. Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, has been notably less strident in his public statements than other ministers, reflecting his nervousness at the economic and

diplomatic consequences of detonating a nuclear device.

Pakistan's economy is a tenth the size of India's and its rupee is fully convertible, unlike India's, raising the possibility of huge capital flight if a test were carried out.

Japan, a key donor country, has warned that it would suspend aid. The Government has considered delaying a test while it rides out the latest economic crisis. Mr Sharif might decide he can survive the short-term political damage of not testing immediately, since he has a two-thirds parliamentary majority.

India doubtless wants Pakistan to conduct a test, aware that this would further enfeeble its economy and deflect international condemnation from Delhi to Islamabad. India has sharply increased its rhetoric over Kashmir, saying that the time has come for a tough stand to stop Pakistan's support of separatist militants in the Kashmir valley — remarks probably designed to strengthen demands in Pakistan for a nuclear test.

India accused Pakistan of

sending mercenaries into its portion of Kashmir and said it was time to stop its "stoking" of terrorism — remarks that have been widely interpreted in Pakistan as a threat to invade the Pakistani side of the former princely state. Mr Sharif said he took the Indian "threats" seriously.

But he went on to hint at his reluctance to conduct a nuclear test as a warning to India. He condemned the international community's failure to co-ordinate harsh sanctions against Delhi, adding: "Had the world severely punished India I could have told my people that now there is no justification to detonate our nuclear device. But this is not happening."

Shamshad Ahmed, head of Pakistan's Foreign Office, has returned from talks in Beijing in which he discussed the possibility of a Pakistani test. Government sources claim that China, which has supplied most of Pakistan's nuclear technology, did not seek to influence Islamabad on whether or when to conduct an explosion.

'Web of rage' traps Israeli spin-doctor

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S top spin-doctor was fighting to save his job yesterday after an opinion poll found more Israelis believed *The New Yorker's* account of his demeaning remarks about the Prime Minister's wife than accepted his denials.

The Gallup poll — 46 per cent believed the article, 32 per cent the denials — published by *Tel Aviv's Maariv* increased pressure on Binyamin Netanyahu to fire David Bar-Illan, his communications director and close friend, after his remarks about the mental stability of Sara Netanyahu and the sexual antics of the late Moshe Dayan provoked a storm.

Maariv cited the "growing rage" of Mrs Netanyahu, of whom Mr Bar-Illan was alleged by David Rennick, the Pulitzer prize-winning US journalist, to have said: "Sara is not the most stable woman in the world." Emmanuel Rosen, an Israeli television commentator, said Mr Bar-Illan's future lay in her hands.

The paper also noted that Israel's influential rabbis were furious with Mr Bar-Illan, a former Editor of *The Jerusalem Post*, for allegedly telling Mr Rennick that no opprobrium would be attached to sleeping with a non-Jewish woman because "even rabbis do it".

Yael Dayan, a Knesset member and the daughter of General Dayan, condemned the insult to him, saying Mr Bar-Illan should go.

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Falklands oil strike after two-week search

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AFTER only two weeks of drilling, an international oil company has discovered oil in the waters off the Falklands, raising the prospect of an oil bonanza in the South Atlantic. The US-owned Amerada Hess company which began exploration in one of the licensed tranches 200 miles to the north of the Falklands has brought up traces of oil. The speed of its discovery has convinced some experts that there are vast reserves beneath the seabed and that test drillings in other tranches may also prove lucky. Oil experts were cautious. The Falklands Islands Government has suggested that a medium-to-large field of 500 million barrels could yield more than £1 billion in royalties. That would make every man, woman and child in the islands, whose total population is 2,100, among the richest in the world.

Amerada Hess, however, said that the champagne corks were not popping yet. "We do not know whether this is just a trace, whether the oil has leaked away or whether we will find any in commercial quantities. Only one in eleven wells in the North Sea yields viable quantities of oil." However, news of the oil strike will spur a race to develop the rich resources of the South Atlantic which inevitably will transform life in the sparse, windswept islands. Drilling is to continue for another ten to fourteen days and the rig will then be passed to Lasmo, another consortium that has won licences in nearby tranches. The international oil companies have all agreed to use the same drilling equipment and share seismic information in order to keep down the costs of exploration. Falklanders are anxious that their simple way of life will be swept away in a fever of development and a huge influx of population. The islands' semi-autonomous governing council has commissioned several development plans to look at how any offshore industry could be serviced and how to limit the impact of the industry on the fragile environment and the endangered wildlife. The prospect of an oil boom has raised the strategic value of the islands which Britain fought to free from an Argentine invasion in 1982. It is also likely to trigger a battle with the Treasury over how much of the royalty money remains in the Falklands, a British dependent territory, and how much will be sent to London. The last Conservative Government made clear that although dependent territories were normally entitled to their own mineral resources, it believed that Britain should receive some of the oil money. The islanders, anticipating such pressure, have offered to pay the estimated costs of the British garrison in the islands, £67 million a year. There are 12 licensed tranches in the sea north of the Falklands. To the west, where the economic zones of the Falklands and Argentina overlap, a special regime has been set up to allow exploration without compromising the sovereignty claims of each side. Bidding for licences there is due to start soon. An oil-rich Falklands would be an even bigger prize for Argentina, which is still hoping to open talks with Britain on the future status of the islands. President Menem is to pay his first visit to Britain in November and is expected to bring up the question of the islands despite the Government's insistence that that is not on the agenda.



Desmond Tutu yesterday being given the freedom of Cape Town, the city where as Archbishop he campaigned and preached against the apartheid regime. He received the honour on behalf of his jailed or exiled colleagues

Russia's novice leader faces crisis over wages

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

SERGEI KIRIYENKO faced his first major crisis as Russian Prime Minister yesterday as tens of thousands of workers downed tools and joined demonstrations across the country over the non-payment of wages. Mr Kiriyenko, whose appointment was confirmed three weeks ago after a month-long tussle between President Yeltsin and the Communist-dominated Duma, met the leaders of Siberian miners who have been on strike for the past two weeks to demand wages overdue by up to six months. The miners have blocked both rail routes across Siberia, prompting Aman Tuleyev, Governor of Kemerovo region, to declare a state of emergency. Mr Kiriyenko said after his talks that Mr Yeltsin had signed a decree ordering wages to the miners to be paid in full ten days ago. There seemed no likelihood, however, that the miners would give up their protest until they received the money. They have been joined by protesters in other sectors. About 200 scientists in the Far East region of Vladivostok blocked major roads out of the city on Tuesday and in Moscow yesterday, thousands of teachers and students marched on the Education Ministry to protest against a lack of funding. Miners' strikes have continued intermittently over recent years amid the breakdown of the Soviet system that ensured special supplies and bonuses to an area of the economy notorious for its harsh conditions. But with huge coal stockpiles and reduced demand in the summer, the miners have little leverage. Their plight highlights the predicament that the Russian Government faces with the economy. When Mr Yeltsin sacked the previous Government, he pointed to its failure to deal with the wage arrears issue. Consequently, it is Mr Kiriyenko's first priority.



Kiriyenko: made wage arrears his priority



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Contenders for Suharto throne win lukewarm popular support

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Unable to stage his protest, Mr Rais was given a tumultuous welcome when he joined the students. He accused the



BY PAUL WILKINSON
AND DAVID WATTS

BRITISH VICTIM

More than 500 deaths over the past week have been linked to the riot against President Suharto. But Hamish Daniel, of the British Embassy, said there was no evidence to suggest that Mr Peacock's death was connected with the unrest. It is now believed that reports of a second British fatality were incorrect.



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فَلْيَكْزِبْهُ مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

Diamond hunters seek jungle fortune

THE Soviet-built helicopter, known as "Bokkie", clattered not so much over the jungle canopy, as through it. A pair of South Africans were at the controls. Also on board were an Ethiopian engineer, a giant Nigerian door gunner, a couple of Nigerian peacekeepers, and three Afrikaner security guards.

Bokkie has legendary status in Sierra Leone as a bringer of comfort to civilians, and terror to the rebels who prey upon them. Skimming tall elephant grass and swinging like a pendulum below towering teak trees, the helicopter, leased by Sandline International, headed for Koidu, the centre of Sierra Leone's diamond trade and the greatest prize in the former British colony's seven-year civil war.

Fred the Fijian, 57, a former Special Air Service soldier, slung a machinegun over his shoulder and scanned the jungle as it flashed by, seeking rebels and their allies in the former Freetown junta, who have unleashed a reign of terror and destruction while seeking to plunder the country's vast diamond deposits.

Juba, one of the mercenaries, had given a brief "safety announcement" before take-off. "Don't bother with the seat belts. I don't know where they are."

Dave Wright and Charlie Nolan, part of a small clan of



Koidu, the centre of Sierra Leone's diamond trade, has been in the hands of rebels. Sam Kiley flew with a team of mercenaries to the ravaged city

British businessmen who have devoted their lives to trying to make money amid Sierra Leone's bloody upheavals — there have been three coups in six years — settled back for an hour's sleep.

"We're only interested in what has happened to our plant machinery," explained Mr Nolan, who comes from Motherwell, Scotland. "We were all set to go when the coup happened [in May last year]."

The Afrikaners had come

along to guard the businessmen. As members of Life Guard, they were hitching a ride with Sandline International, the mercenary organisation which shares offices with DiamondWorks and Branch Mining in the Kings Road.

The mining company owns the rights to the Koidu kimberlite pipe, one of the richest deposits of gem quality diamonds in the world.

Little could have prepared even the hardened South Africans for what has been done to

Koidu. The city of more than 100,000 people no longer exists. Before they were driven out two weeks ago, the rebels "Operation Pay Yourself" — a looting rampage — and "Operation No Living Thing" destroyed it. Every building was burned down.

Civilians who survived the onslaught fled into the surrounding bush, where they continue to fall victim to rebel atrocities including mass rape, murder, amputations and a twisted game called "rebel roulette" in which victims pick their fate — whether they are to lose an eye, an ear, a leg, or their heads — from bits of paper on the ground.

Dominic Moussa, a lawyer trained at Grey's Inn, has returned to Koidu after three months hiding in the bush. He said the city's civilians had been forced into labouring for the rebels in diamond digs. "If you refused, they shot you."

The DiamondWorks operation on the edge of the city was wrecked by the rebels who destroyed about £7 million worth of equipment. As the mercenaries wandered through the wreckage, a nearby hillcock exploded with gun fire. The group ducked behind the spades of burned out bulldozers. A Nigerian radio crackled. "We got 'im, we got 'im. He dead," was the message. "Good," was the collective response.

Kabbah plea for guns

New York President Kabbah of Sierra Leone has written to Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, to ask for the UN arms embargo to be lifted so that Nigerian-led peacekeepers can bring more weapons into the country (James Bone writes).

The US supports reinforcing the Ecomog peacekeeping mission to suppress a continuing rebellion in the east of the country. Britain suggested in the Security Council this week that it favoured a new UN peacekeeping operation to be sent there to maintain order.

Clinton 'traded US security for Beijing funds'

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

NEWT GINGRICH, the House Speaker, is to create a Watergate-style panel to investigate charges that President Clinton put America's security in jeopardy in return for illegal Chinese contributions to his re-election campaign.

The new select committee, expected to be in place before Mr Clinton's planned visit to Beijing next month, is the sharpest Republican response to potentially explosive accusations that a Chinese military officer sent nearly \$100,000 to the Democratic campaign at a time when the President was overruling his own bureaucracy to relax export controls on the transfer of satellite technology to Beijing.

Mr Gingrich said that the panel, modelled on the Senate Watergate committee of the Nixon era and chaired by Christopher Cox, a former counsel to President Reagan, would focus on recent reports that Liu Chaoying, a lieutenant-colonel in the Chinese Army and daughter of a general, had donated the funds to a senior Democratic fundraiser in 1996.

It would also investigate whether Loral Space and Communications, a satellite manufacturer, already at the heart of a Justice Department inquiry, passed sensitive technology to China. Bernard Schwartz, the company's chief executive, was the largest single donor to the Clinton-Gore campaign in 1996.

"But this has nothing to do with campaign finance," Mr Gingrich said. "This has to do with the security of the United States. And the effort by the Chinese military to penetrate our political system and the effort by some people to give the Chinese secrets in violation of American law."

The disclosures of the past week have given the Republicans a filip at a time when the Whitewater investigation has retreated from the news and the President's alleged sexual



Gingrich: "Nothing to do with campaign finance"

misconduct has failed to excite the public.

In this case, a branch of Mr Clinton's Administration is investigating whether his official acts as President altered agreed foreign policy and affected the nation's security. The investigation also has the potential to damage Al Gore, the Vice-President and Democratic frontrunner for the presidency in 2000. Mr Gore has for many years spoken of the dangers of weapon and missile technology proliferation, but it was he who appeared at a Buddhist temple in 1996 to raise campaign funds. The funds raised were alleged to have come from foreign donors, which is illegal.

Although the White House has denied that Chinese donations changed national guidelines on satellite exports, Mr Clinton in fact reversed his policy five months after Warren Christopher, then Secretary of State, had sought to limit China's ability to launch American-made satellites using Chinese rockets.

During last year's hearings into illicit contributions, the Administration said that it had not exchanged policy benefits for large donations. Now the White House maintains that the President made the change not because of campaign contributions but to improve American competitiveness and to streamline the bureaucracy.

Hackers can cripple Internet in 30 minutes

BY TOM RHODES

A BAND of America's top computer hackers claims it could cripple the Internet in half an hour and, given more time and money, interrupt satellite transmissions and spy on the President.

The Boston group, testifying before the Senate, said that by interfering with links between long-distance telephone carriers it could disrupt the Internet service for at least two days in just 30 minutes.

The seven hackers, dressed in black suits, identified themselves only by their Internet aliases, including Mudge, Brian Oblivion and Space Rogue. Known as L0pht, the hackers meet in a Boston loft every week to discuss weaknesses in computer, cellular telephone and other communications networks.

They were called to Capitol Hill as part of Senate hearings into the security of government and commercial computer and telecommunications networks. The Government has found that the State Department and Federal Aviation Administration's air-control system are vulnerable to hacking.

On Friday President Clinton will announce the creation of two government organisations to deal with information warfare and the appointment of a "terrorism czar" to co-ordinate counter-terrorism efforts.

In a test, congressional investigators were able to access the travel itineraries of US diplomats, employment records and e-mail traffic and were able to take control of the State Department's computers. Stock exchanges, the Federal Reserve and taxpayer records are also at risk.

But the hackers said it was difficult to change data or issue commands. The Global Positioning Satellite System, used for navigation in military and some civilian aircraft, can be jammed but a hacker would be hard pressed to move its position.

Actress endured life of chastity

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK



CAROL CHANNING, the Broadway actress who shot to stardom in *Hello Dolly*, has filed for divorce from her 86-year-old husband, claiming that she has not had sex with him since Dwight D. Eisenhower was President.

Ms Channing, 77, has lodged a 20-page petition with the Los Angeles District Court, citing her husband's "impotence" as the reason for her dissatisfaction. The actress married Charles Lowe, a businessman, in autumn 1956, and it is alleged that he disclosed his impotence to her moments after they stepped off the aisle.

In her deposition, Ms Channing states: "We had sexual relations only once or

twice during our 41-year marriage and that was 41 years ago. We have never been intimate again to the present day." As a result, she says, her life has been one of prolonged and enforced chastity. "I have always been loyal to him, and never during the course of our 41-year marriage had any affairs or been intimate with anyone else."

Through her lawyer, the celebrated "divorce-meister" Raoul Felder, Ms Channing also alleges that Mr Lowe assaulted her regularly and spent much of her money "like a drunken sailor". Mr Felder has asked the court to freeze Ms Channing's assets immediately, lest Mr Lowe spend any more on himself.



Two-day ordeal of woman in cliff fall

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

HER neck broken and deep purple gashes snaking across her face, Janet McAllister considers herself a very lucky woman.

Mrs McAllister, 44, was in a stable condition yesterday after sliding on loose mud and rocks and falling as much as 50ft down a cliff at Tillamook Head on the Oregon coast.

She had landed halfway down, her face gushing blood and a vertebra in her neck fractured. She braced herself against a tree and spent two nights huddled under rocks and leaves, trying to flag down fishing boats, surfers, a helicopter and even hang-gliders.

Finally she crawled back to her car, swallowed some painkillers and slept for hours before finding two boys in the car park who called an ambulance.

An avid explorer who worked on storm drain maintenance for the city of Hillsboro, Mrs McAllister is expected to make a full recovery after treatment.

"All Christopher Reeve did was ride a horse," Mrs McAllister said, referring to the paralysed screen actor. "I'm so fortunate that I am not paralysed."

"I'm so fortunate that I'm not paralysed," said Janet McAllister, who spent two nights on a cliff face with a broken neck after slipping on mud and rocks

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Priceless Van Goghs stolen to order

Police believe a crooked collector set up the daring raid on a Rome museum, writes

Richard Owen

INTERPOL launched an international hunt yesterday for two priceless masterpieces by Van Gogh and a valuable landscape by Cézanne after a daring burglary at the Museum of Modern Art in Rome.

General Roberto Conforti, head of the carabinieri anti-theft unit, said the paintings had almost certainly been stolen to order since they were so well-known that they would have no value on the open market. They are thought to have been taken either by a "criminal collector" or with the intention of claiming a ransom for their safe return.

Police said the three thieves had clearly been professionals, who had targeted the three works: *The Gardener*, by Van Gogh, a portrait of the gardener at the asylum to which Van Gogh was committed at St Rémy near Arles, painted in 1890; *L'Arlesienne*, a portrait of the wife of a café proprietor in Arles, painted by Van Gogh a few months before he committed suicide in 1890; and an unfinished landscape by Cézanne called *Le Cabanon de Jourdan*, the last oil painting he is known to have been working on.

Police said the thieves had taken advantage of new rules introduced by Walter Veltroni, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Culture, under which many of Italy's moribund state-run museums are being modernised and renovated, with opening hours increased so that visitors can enjoy works of art in the evening. Signor Veltronisaid the robbery was very unusual. He said the burglars had waited until the museum closed its doors at 10pm and had then hidden. They had tied up the three women security guards and forced them to turn off the alarm



The two priceless Van Goghs — *L'Arlesienne*, left, and *The Gardener* — and, below, Cézanne's *Le Cabanon de Jourdan*. Police said the paintings are so well-known that they would have no value on the open market

system before stealing the paintings. Flavia Gandolfi, one of the guards, said she and her two colleagues had been bound at the hands, wrists and ankles with electric wire. The guards said they had been taken by surprise because the burglars had taken off their shoes and crept up on them in stocking feet.

Signora Gandolfi said one of the burglars had held her and her colleagues at gunpoint while the other two took the paintings off the wall. The three women were then locked in the toilets, but later managed to raise the alarm.

Signor Veltroni, who was alerted at 3.30am and arrived at the museum at 4am, said that every effort would be made to recover the stolen works of art.

There has been widespread criticism of Italy's neglect of its art heritage, with the museum sector under-staffed and under-resourced. Earlier this year, three paintings by Matisse on exhibition in Rome were damaged by vandals.

There were unconfirmed reports yesterday that security systems at the Museum of Modern Art had not been functioning properly for some

months, and that internal closed circuit television monitors were out of order. In addition, because of renovations under the Veltroni reforms, the museum had workmen coming and going at all times of night, one official said.

Alessandra Pinto, director of the museum, noted that the thieves had ignored other valuable modern art works, including paintings by Monet, Degas and Klimt. The robbers did, however, find time to take £500 in cash from the ticket office, which officials said amounted to the day's takings.

Signora Pinto said the stolen Cézanne had a value of about £20 million, but the Van Goghs were beyond price.

The Museum of Modern Art, constructed in 1911, is one of the centrepieces of the Villa Borghese Park, which the Government is promoting as a tourist and cultural attraction. The museum contains about 5,000 works of contemporary art, most of them Italian. Signor Veltroni said the robberies amounted to a "grave loss to the world of art," and Italy's museums would be re-examining their security arrangements.



Bosnians claim Karadzic is hiding in monastery

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

WAR crimes fugitive Radovan Karadzic could be hiding in an Orthodox monastery across the border from his Montenegro hometown of Niksic where his 74-year-old mother is in hospital. Bosnian intelligence sources said.

The reports regarding his whereabouts come amid a new campaign to clear his name, led by his wife Lijana and brother Luka. They, with help from the Serbian diaspora in Germany, France and America, have set up an "international committee for the truth about Radovan Karadzic", designed to counter what Luka described this week as "foreign lies".


The monastery hideaway is a more credible refuge than previous locations. The Herzegovina area of Bosnia, west of Niksic, is a stronghold of Serb hardliners who would shelter Dr Karadzic. It would also enable him to dash across the border to visit his mother Jovanka, suffering from a heart complaint. Dr Karadzic, the eldest of four brothers, is the favourite of the matriarch of the clan.

The Nato-led Stabilisation Force in Bosnia said this week that it had no new intelligence on Dr Karadzic. "There are rumours flying around but we have no sightings," Major Peter Clarke said.

Dr Karadzic's son, Sasa, less keen than his uncle to put his father in the spotlight, denied there was a media campaign. "It has all been invented," he said.


The Nato force, meanwhile, said it was more concerned about the situation in Kosovo, and was closely monitoring the Bosnia-Montenegro border for possible arms deliveries to the Kosovars.

Relations between a restive Montenegro and Belgrade worsened after Tuesday's appointment of Momir Bulatovic as premier of Federal Yugoslavia.



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Pride of Pacific battle found

Finder of Titanic locates another famous wreck

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE wreck of the American carrier *USS Yorktown*, sunk 56 years ago during the decisive Battle of Midway, has been found in waters three miles deep by an expedition led by Robert Ballard, the oceanographer who discovered the *Titanic* 13 years ago.

"We have the bridge in sight," the eagerly awaited message flashed from far out in the Pacific to headquarters of the National Geographic Society in Washington yesterday. Bill Surt, a *Yorktown* survivor, was the first to identify the wreck, recognising its gun emplacements as video images were transmitted by robot cameras from the wreck to the mother ship on the surface.

"In 1942 America lost a great warrior and today we've reclaimed her," said Dr Ballard, summing up his latest triumph of marine exploration. His life-long exploits have earned him a reputation as the Indiana Jones of the deep.

No one had gone in search of the *Yorktown* and the four Japanese carriers lost in the battle because they lay at a depth of 16,650 feet. For that reason, Dr Ballard found it gratifying to have found one of them at last, operating a remote-controlled unmanned robot vehicle and a smaller robot from the US Navy's support ship, *Laney Chouest*. For the next couple of days, the expedition will continue to survey and photograph the *Yorktown*. Then, in the time left before the expedition ends on May 31, they will go in search of the Japanese carriers which have so far not been

detected in the Midway graveyard, about 1,250 miles west-northwest of Honolulu.

Tokyo's Imperial Navy dominated the Pacific after Japan's sneak attack on Pearl Harbour in Hawaii had crippled much of the US Pacific fleet at anchor. There remained the matter of Midway, a dot of two square miles that was the last US outpost between Japan and Hawaii.

Admiral Gomei Yamamoto commanded the largest Japanese naval task force ever assembled, more than 200 ships, and set off for the final and decisive victory. What he did not know was that after months of listening to Japanese radio signals an American intelligence officer, Joseph Rochefort, had cracked the Japanese military code and could predict the navy's movements. The American commander, Admiral Chester Nimitz, though outnumbered, had the element of surprise. In three days of fierce fighting, Japanese losses included a heavy cruiser and 330 aircraft, most of which went down on the four carriers. The Americans lost 150 aircraft and one carrier, the *Yorktown*.

The carrier weighed 19,800 tonnes and carried 75 aircraft. During the battle, it was seriously damaged by Japanese bombers and, already listing heavily to starboard, sank after being torpedoed by a Japanese submarine. There were 2,270 survivors.

The loss was a heavy blow, but the American fleet had achieved a victory that turned the tide of war. It was the same year as two other epic turning



Pilots and crew aboard the carrier *Yorktown* walk cautiously over the sloping deck of the wrecked vessel listing heavily to starboard in the Battle of Midway. It finally sank after being torpedoed by a Japanese submarine



points against the Axis powers, the battles of Stalingrad and El Alamein. Dr Ballard launched his expedition to find the rusting behemoths on May 1. It is his sixth collaboration with National Geographic and the US Navy in search of lost ships. Their first find was the *Titanic* in September 1985, but the Midway ships lie nearly a mile deeper. The unmanned robots are the most advanced technology

for deep-sea exploration. While clarifying historic facts about the Battle of Midway, they are also testing technology that can be put to future use in rescuing disabled submarines and exploring Earth's last frontier, its oceans. No humans have ventured to the ocean floor during the expedition. The robots are controlled from the mother ship where video and still photographs are received;

these will be released early next month. Although the *Yorktown* will be filmed, the vessel will not be disturbed and nothing will be taken from it. American law forbids interfering with any navy wreck. The exact location of the ships has not been revealed. Tokyo has also requested that no footage be taken of any human remains on its four sunken carriers, the *Akagi*, *Kaga*, *Soryu* and *Hiryu*. A crew member from the *Kaga*, Haruo Yoshino, has accompanied the expedition to share memories of the battle with US survivors for a documentary.

As a specialist in deep-ocean archaeology, Dr Ballard has led or taken part in more than 100 expeditions. Although best-known for *Titanic*, he also discovered the German battleship *Bismarck*.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Bonn stops Sellafield nuclear convoys

Bonn: Angela Merkel, the German Environment Minister, halted German nuclear waste shipments to the Sellafield reprocessing plant in Cumbria yesterday because of radiation leaks in past convoys, the ministry said. An official said there would be no new convoys until the reason for the leaks was known. Radiation levels for convoys to Sellafield had been found at between 10 and 20 becquerels per square centimetre; the norm is 4. A similar measure was announced recently affecting waste bound for La Hague in France. The ministry had said earlier that there had been 11 cases of excess radioactivity in German waste convoys last year in a total of 55 convoys. The contamination had reached 13,000 becquerels per square centimetre in some convoys for La Hague. (AFP)

'Sex assaults' at US border

Mexico City: Migrants crossing Mexico's border with the United States illegally are often beaten, starved, denied medical attention or sexually assaulted by US Border Patrol guards, Amnesty International said here. The London-based human rights group said that although conditions on the 2,000-mile frontier had improved since 1994, violations persisted. Drawn by better wages and higher standard of living, tens of thousands of Mexicans cross the border unlawfully every year. (Reuters)

Boney's \$9,000 hair cut

New York: A lock of hair, believed to have been taken from Napoleon Bonaparte during his exile on the island of Elba, was sold for \$9,200 (£5,700) at Christie's. The framed lock of hair inside a blue velvet case was bought by a private collector. It was one of 300 items of Napoleonic trappings that sold for a total of \$1.2 million. (AP)



'Dirty war' unit disbanded

Bogota: Colombia has disbanded a shadowy military intelligence unit accused of organising right-wing death squads and waging a "dirty war" against suspected left-wing sympathisers. The surprise move, announced by General Manuel José Bonet, the armed forces chief, came amid a growing chorus of criticism of the so-called 20th Brigade from US officials and international human rights groups. (Reuters)

Everest's growth tracked

Kathmandu: Wally Berg, a US mountain climber, installed a Global Positioning System on the summit of Mt Everest to measure the growth of the world's highest mountain. It will measure the speed at which India is sliding under Tibet, raising the 28,029ft mountain roughly by one inch every year. Mr Berg was among 19 climbers who scaled the summit, including the first Iranian team. (AP)

Voters draw a blank

Asunción: Paraguay's Senate will give a seat to the obscure Blanco party after thousands of voters wishing to cast a blank vote apparently voted for it by mistake in the May 10 elections. The ruling Colorado Party and the opposition Democratic Alliance said the Partido Blanco (White Party) owed most of its 35,000 votes to confusion. In Spanish, a blank vote is a *voto en blanco* — a "white vote". (Reuters)

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Why a doctor should tell you everything

The consultation with an NHS doctor in which a patient is told that he or she has cancer lasts an average of 15 minutes. Only five minutes longer than the average consultation in a surgery, the extra five minutes seems rather a short time to deal with all the implications of possible surgery, radiotherapy, and in a number of cases, a diagnosis that may have a fatal outcome.

It is little wonder then that the General Medical Council (GMC) has ordained that doctors should talk more to their patients, and that there should be a return to the time when we were as interested in their personalities as in the science of their diseases. There is a well accepted school of thought which suggests that alternative and complementary practitioners owe much of their popularity to their readiness to talk to patients.

The occasional patient misunderstands the diagnostic value of the talk and may see it as idle chatter, or possibly an intrusion into private matters. When I send my patients to consultant colleagues who are notoriously monosyllabic, I warn them that the doctor may well have missed out on instructions in how to conduct a medical interview. The almost invariable reply is that the patient is interested in the specialist's skill and not his or her bedside manner.

The GMC, however, is right to expect that doctors should take time to talk to their patients and that all explanations should be as full, honest



Dr Thomas Stuttford reports on the need for doctors to be frank; worm-infested royals; hair's secrets; and selenium

and straightforward as possible. Although patients may say that they are indifferent to bedside manners, experience shows that they are not and will, in particular, resent a taciturn or even brusque approach if anything goes wrong. Conversely, they like the old-style demeanour: one patient, for instance, deserts the ultra high-tech medicine of

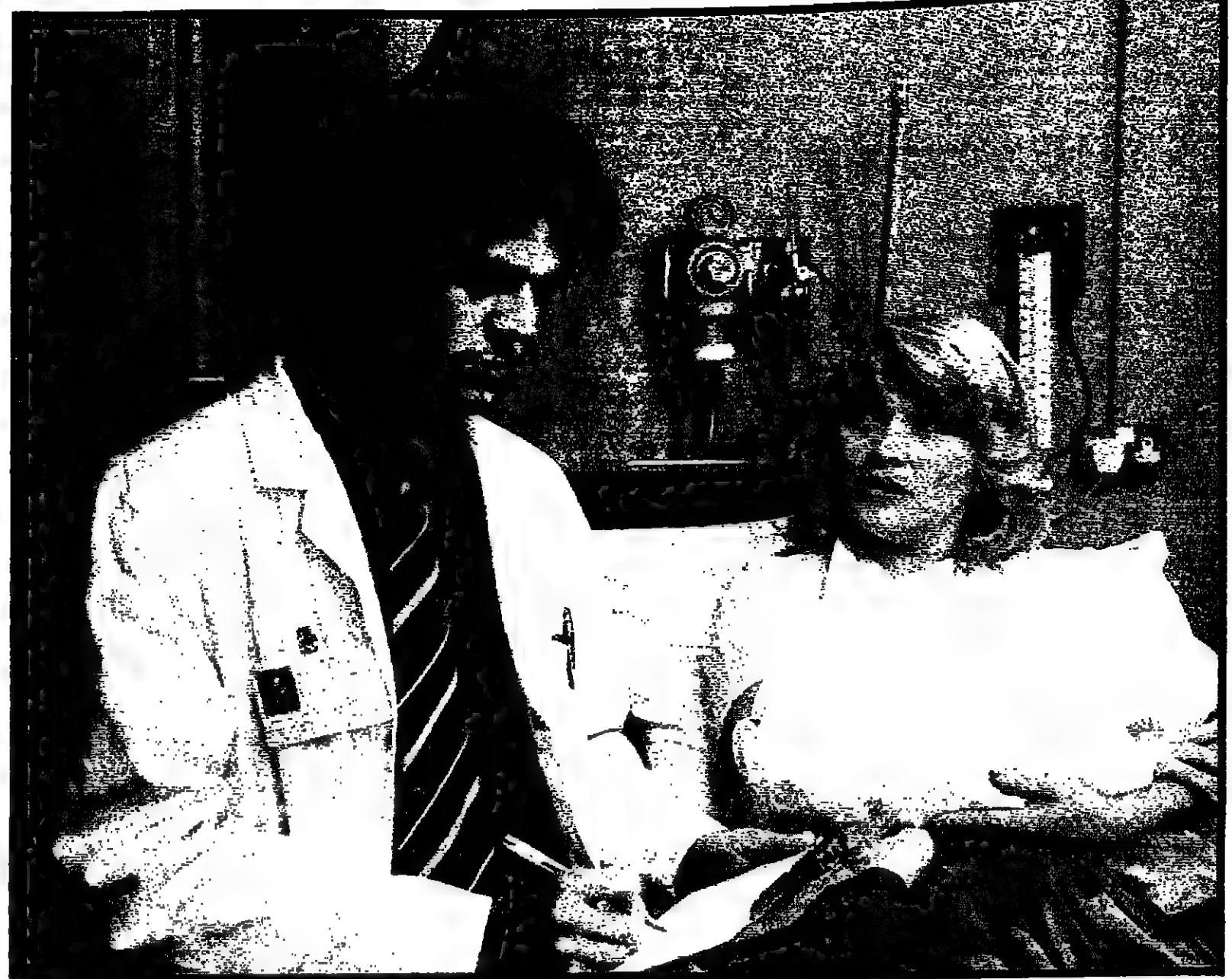
her homeland to have her babies in Britain because she likes the friendliness and frankness of her London obstetrician.

The GMC has not, of course, insisted that all patients should always be told all the unvarnished facts about their condition. A spokeswoman said yesterday: "Patients are not all the same; they are individuals, and each case has to be considered separately."

The GMC has issued guidelines, not rules, which doctors will be expected to be able to interpret as a result of their training and experience. It is therefore their judgment that is important and which will be questioned if there is a serious complaint. Doctors must be prepared to explain later if they have done or said anything which might at first sight appear untoward."

Many doctors have always been as open as possible but the way in which news, particularly bad news, is imparted has to be compatible with the patient's psyche and background. The overwhelming majority of patients are grateful for a full and frank discussion, however bad the news, and are entitled to the truth. Patients, however, must realise that doctors cannot foretell the future; that is the role of the fairground palmist.

Doctors rarely, for instance, give a definite date for survival despite the number of patients' stories which start: "My doctor gave me only six months to



The GMC is encouraging doctors to return to the time when they were as interested in patients' personalities as in the science of their diseases

live..." When life expectancy is discussed, an average survival time may be mentioned but patients are reminded that no two cases run the same course and the estimate may be wildly out, and even the diagnosis may be mistaken. A year or two ago a patient of mine was diagnosed as having cancer of the pancreas

which had spread to the rest of the upper abdomen. The specialist suggested that the scan was such that he thought the patient would be lucky to survive a month.

The patient was a remarkably brave man with an inquiring mind and therefore asked penetrating questions. I answered his queries as truth-

fully as I was able to but didn't mention a prognosis of four weeks. He finally said: "I'm just about to go home. I would like you to telephone my wife and son so that they are spared the emotion of my telling them the news. And now I want you to tell me whether I should start drinking my good claret, my

very best claret, or the claret I've put on one side to celebrate my fortieth wedding anniversary."

I suggested that he better start drinking his best claret as fast as possible. The next day he was admitted to hospital where further investigations showed that the initial diagnosis was wrong. He had a blood

clot which was extending from a leaking spleen and this had mimicked the appearance of a tumour. The spleen was removed and he is now fit. Likewise, in my experience there have been three patients with apparently terminal, inoperable tumours (correctly diagnosed) who have spontaneously recovered.

An element of hope

The flour in the loaf on your table is now more likely to have been milled from wheat grown in Britain. In the past we imported much of our wheat from Canada but now Britain is a net exporter rather than an importer of it. Bread, too, is not eaten in the same quantities: in the past 20 years sales have dropped by 25 per cent. Men no longer go to work with sandwiches in a box, and when they and their wives return home in the evening something more exotic than bread is used to satiate any hunger. The change in consumption of bread has had the unexpected effect of reducing the amount of selenium in our diet. Selenium is an essential trace element which is found in varying quantities in the soil. Regional variations are reflected in the amount of selenium in the plants, including cereal crops, which grow in it. The changes in the selenium content of wheat and its effect on the diet is not the only reason why selenium intake is falling. Modern farming methods wash selenium out of the soil so that even the animals that graze our pastures, and end up on our dinner plates, have lower concentrations of the element than they did 20 years ago. The average intake of selenium in the standard British diet has fallen by 50 per cent in the past two years and is now less than a third of that taken by the average American.

Selenium is an antioxidant and is a component of a number of enzyme systems in the body. The antioxidants protect human cells from oxidative damage. Selenium is also an essential part of the process by which

abnormal cells, including potentially malignant cells, perform apoptosis, thereby destroying themselves. Selenium, too, is thought to improve the immune system and has a detoxifying role by neutralising various cancer-forming chemicals.

Too little selenium has been blamed for an increased incidence of cardiovascular disease, and for the large number of various cancers found in people who live in areas where selenium levels in the soil are low. Conversely, people who live in parts of Norfolk, for instance, where selenium levels are high and they continue to eat their homegrown vegetables, rather than buying them from the local supermarket, have low levels of both malignant disease and coronary disorders.

A study has been set up involving 52,000 people from Britain, the United States, Holland, Belgium, Finland, Sweden and Denmark to ascertain whether taking supplements of selenium protects against cancer.

The projected study will cost £20 million but a preliminary double blind trial which involved 1,312 patients has shown remarkable results.

The research team led by Dr Larry Clark of the University of Arizona, has published its findings in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The experiment showed that among those who took 200 micrograms of selenium daily there was a near 50 per cent reduction in the likelihood of malignant disease, and a 40 per cent fall in the chance of developing cancers of any type.

'Modern farming washes selenium out of the soil'

A Sun King and his diet of worms

A PROFESSOR of parasitology at Reims University, France, has been sifting the soil near the remnants of the latrines at Marly-le-Roi. The château itself, a residence of Louis XIV, the Sun King, was destroyed by the revolutionary mob. The *British Medical Journal* (BMJ) reports that lavatories used by the royal servants, and lesser mortals, have shown a difference between the parasites in the guts of the king and the nobility, and those of their minions.

The guts of the court were a haven for several parasites. The regal faecal remains revealed evidence of round worms as well as Trichinella, one of the worms which has a predilection for pigs, in particular the wild boar, as well as tapeworms. The BMJ suggests that the reason why the king suffered, and his subjects did not, was that the nobility had a love of undercooked, grilled meat, and the others had their meat boiled. Even if Louis's boar steaks were better cooked, his life probably would not have been longer. He died at 77, a great age in 1715.

The court, too, suffered from liver fluke, Fasciola hepatica, spread by contaminated watercress and dandelions.

Every hair tells a story

THE coats of some of the horses that will appear in next month's Trooping the Colour owe part of their splendour to swimming in the Channel off the Sussex coast. Salt-water bathing before a big parade is a well-established cavalryman's trick to ensure that, after grooming, the horses will gleam as brightly as the brasses, boots and cuirasses of their riders.

Cleaning hair is not only a problem for the Household Cavalry. Dirty hair can interfere with scientific analysis, an accepted method of detecting heavy metals in the human body. Through studying hair it is possible to identify such chemicals as arsenic, so popular among Victorians bent on committing murder. Nowadays it can indicate illicit drug-taking, for the way in which a hair grows is reflected in its

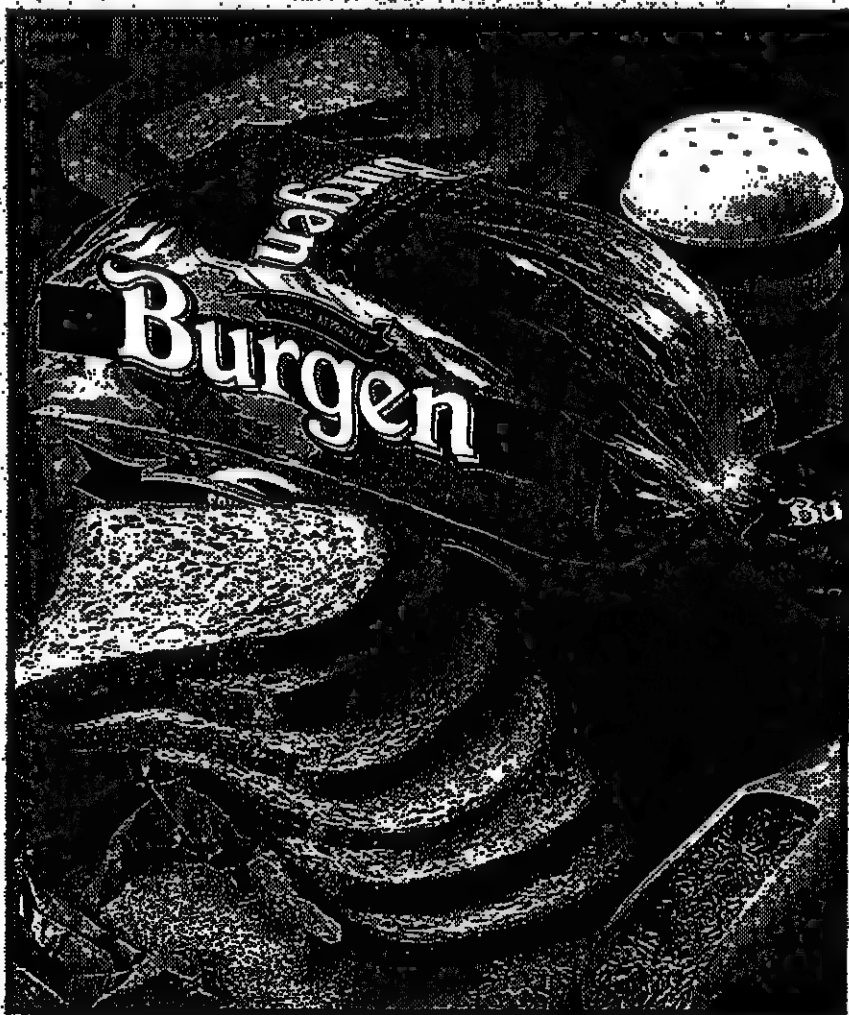


Hair holds medical secrets

shaft and this will betray any drug use.

In the *British Medical Journal* Dr R.S. Pereira has reviewed a technique by which a substance known as trans-thyretin, from the inside of the hair, can be used for identification purposes. It can also provide a source of other medical information about a person.

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As featured on this page last Thursday From Selfridges, Pharmacies or mail order 0171 223 1665

Beware the dangers of baby burnout



The karate kid: do children really need more activity after a school-filled, energy-sapping day?

Karate, violin, drama: the mere thought of after-school 'fun' makes India Knight tired

A friend's five-year-old son was recently invited to a classmate's birthday party. Clowns and sausages? Not exactly. Come June, the birthday boy will be celebrating in a marquee. And while he and his friends all live in London, the marquee will be sited in the country, two hours' drive away. And not just anywhere in the country, but in the (fired) grounds of a complete stranger's posh estate. A bus will ferry the children from South London to deepest Gloucestershire and back again. The family involved are not rich: they "simply" thought such a party would be "fun".

When I said to my friend "How perfectly grotesque, you can't possibly go and, besides, do you really want to give up your Saturday?" there was a silence. "I know," she said, miserably. "But Jack knows Horace from pottery, and they see each other at Suzuki violin, and the mother got us into an overbooked Toserzie class — and I will be embarrassed into going."

Such carefree disregard for one's own social life is on the increase, as *The London Parents' Guide* magazine confirms with its helpful directory of child-focused activities. I've often felt slightly incompetent, because I refuse to allow my children to come into contact with the kind of children whose parents are keen on infantile "networking" and b) because I won't let them take part in an ever-increasing range of post-school activities designed for today's groovy

sprog. Entertainment-wise, I don't see what's wrong with Lego or Tin-Tin for the five-year-old, and a bit of frenetic trike-riding round the kitchen table for the toddler. Or with reading books, or colouring, or — sacrilege! — watching a video. But baby aerobics and junior archery, at the end of a school-filled, energy-sapping day? I don't think so.

I, however, am in a minority. Every day, outside my eldest son's school, mothers are dragging their exhausted five- and six-year-olds to ballet, French, drama, pottery, riding, percussion and so on. ("But Mummy, I'm tired," "Don't be silly, darling, I know, let's speak French all the way there. Je m'appelle Maman. Allons-y! Daring?") Apart from the riding lessons, all these activities are covered at school. Why, then, willingly add to the general exhaustion at the end of the day?

"Guilt, pure and simple," says Martha, a working mother of two. "I don't actually see that much of the children, they're just about to go to bed by the time I get home. They tell me what a fun time they've had with the nanny, then go to sleep."

"I want to do fun things with them, too, so I overcompensate. That's why I can't stop buying them presents, and why the weekends consist of one bloody activity after another. I worry that the alternative — Mummy crashing out on the sofa with her copy of *Vogue* — will make the kids think I'm boring. So we dash around: swimming, karate, drama on Saturdays,

something educational on Sundays, like the Science Museum. Do they enjoy it all? [Long pause.] They don't not enjoy it."

But guilt does not explain the hordes of activity-friendly, stay-at-home mothers I come across. I have a grudging admiration for these human dynamos, for whom every weekday passes in a whirl of toddler dance classes, baby painting, trips to the city farm, trampolining, and dunk-your-baby-and-see-if-

sarily anything to shout about either, but I do feel there ought to be a happy medium between having a slug for a mother and having a Nineties version of an annoyingly eager Superwoman, loudly but silently proclaiming her superior devotion to her children with every new activity.

My opinion of such women is that they might benefit from acquiring a hobby: there is no need for even the most devoted parent to subjugate herself in this way. When a child goes into ecstasies of curiosity over a snail in the garden or a dragon in a book, I don't see the need for daily boring wet treks through the muddy park. Also, there is something distasteful about children feeling that it is their parents' responsibility to keep them entertained with an ever-increasing range of thrillorama activities.

Still, Superwoman and Guilty Working Mum pale into insignificance compared with the Ambitious Mother. I will never forget the first "hothoused" child I met, a golem-like-looking but seemingly prodigiously brainy infant with a winning way with flashcards. At the time, my son wouldn't have recognised a letter, let alone a word, if it had bitten him on the bottom. Unlike Infant Genius, however, he was socially competent, had many friends and liked running about giggling.

The Nineties obsession with forcing small children — babies, even — to perform intellectual feats is repellent and counter-productive since, in my not inconsiderable experience, hothoused children

inevitably become social cripples. Certainly, they tend to find school unduly stressful. Of course, by the time they are of school age they have already been introduced to a veritable maelstrom of post-prep activities.

The Ambitious Mother is the chief culprit in all this: she manages to make piano lessons sound like child abuse. She asks to see a list of parents' names before signing up for playgroup. She frets about getting her child into the "right" nursery school, ie one containing potentially useful future contacts. I once had one of my eldest son's friends to tea: they were joined by the next-door neighbour's daughter, aged 7 and adorable. When Ambitious Mother came for her son, she asked this girl where she went to school. The local rough primary, was the answer. This woman looked at me and said "Gosh, aren't you liberal?" Such women don't actually enjoy chauffeuring their children from dance to Latin to speech and drama, but feel that somehow their offspring will benefit socially.

I'd have no objections to my boys learning to play the piano, say, or to extra swimming lessons, in the summer. Both have plenty of friends whose after-school lives are frenzied with activity, and my attitude has always been to wait until they ask if they, too, can go to, say, guided tours of art galleries. It may be that they've inherited their mothers' lethargy, but I'm still waiting.

What's wrong with Lego, Tin-Tin or riding a trike?

he-bobs-up swimming classes: these mothers' very existence is defined by their children to a psychologically fascinating degree. My own offspring are sadly bereft of such excitements: a recent trip to the Museum of Childhood was heralded for days in advance with my telling them that this outing was a Very Special Treat Indeed.

My usual methods of entertaining my children consist of me lying in bed, with the bed becoming a pirate ship, the interior of a rocket, a cruel mountain peak (with duvet hills) and so on. I realise this supine approach isn't neces-

Championing the cause of women behaving badly

Elizabeth Wurtzel, self-styled icon of the slack-generation, arrived in London this week, trailing streams of controversy behind her. This time she is not only "young and depressed", the subtitle of her first book *Prozac Nation*; she is angry. Her new work, *Bitch*, is a long, polemical history of manipulative female behaviour, a celebration of difficult women. If she has a thesis, it is that women can find freedom only through aggressive self-assertion, by willfully flouting convention, by being entirely bad, even. "I intend to scream, shout... and throw tantrums and confess intimate details about my life," she writes. "I intend to do what I want to do and be whom I want to be and answer only to myself." Can

Elizabeth Wurtzel's new book supports the "bitch philosophy" — that women should do what they want. Jason Cowley reports

she be serious? Maureen Freely, the writer and feminist, believes she is, describing her manifesto as courageous, if limited. "Until you're 25, this is a very good philosophy. After that you start to notice there is more to life. It's true that we enjoy watching other people dare to live beyond the boundaries of life, as Wurtzel has done, and I think many women have secret desires about behaving badly. She dares to be a feminist without being politically correct. Sometimes you have to look at the dark side to embrace what the problem is."

Wurtzel, 30, has certainly

embraced the dark side. *Prozac Nation* told of her battles with depression and drug abuse, of her suicide attempt and chaotic sexuality and of the misery of a Manhattan childhood marred by her parents' messy divorce. Now a recovering drug addict, she wrote *Bitch* while strung out on speed and heroin. It shows there is wild repetition and contradiction. Her erratic, energetic prose, as one American critic wrote, "reads like a long, messy e-mail from an insomniac on a manic high."

She has a weakness for overstatement and generalisation. Men, she writes, are driven only by the urge to be stronger, richer and "to lay as many babes as possible". But you can only admire her magnificent energy, if not her self-savouring confessional style.

Melissa Bernstein, feminist and essayist, agrees with Wurtzel that independence and strength are the "new storylines for women. But historically, the problem for women has been forces, both coercive and subtle. Yes, we all answer to ourselves. The secular age has replaced religion with autonomy. But in this complicated life we all need negotiation and interdependence to survive. I have no problem with the theory but I don't like lessons in selfishness."

Wurtzel is eager to reappropriate the word "bitch" from pejorative usage. She admires outsiders and iconoclasts, and celebrates the "bitch" in history such as like the biblical Delilah. Selflessness, submissiveness, fulfilling traditional feminine roles will bring only frustration and failure. "Frankly," she writes, "I have a tough time feeling that feminism has done a damn bit of good if I can't be the way I want and have the world accommodate it on some level."

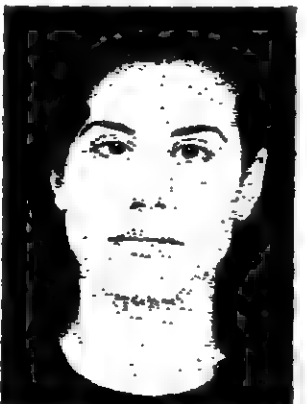
Natasha Walter, author of *The New Feminism*, admires the swagger of Wurtzel's style, but feels there are more important struggles to be won: on women's poverty, powerlessness and political and social inequality. "When young girls say, 'I'll do what I want', it makes a good starting point for feminism," she says. "It shows they have the confidence of boys of the same age. Just to be able to say this shows what a long way women have come. But it is just a starting point and we need to use this attitude to create change."

The broadcaster and journalist Joan Bakewell is more

trenchant. "This philosophy of the *Bitch* is blindingly selfish, saying go for it, ignore everyone else and treat your own interest as the most important in the world. Society is dependent on people honouring contracts between each other and having trust in one another. This philosophy is a recipe for social chaos and if she wants to follow it, then good luck to her. I expect she'll have a miserable life."

Bakewell's remark is right. Over lunch, Wurtzel told me that she was indeed miserable. Her twenties were, in effect, a chain of successes: a staff job on *The New Yorker* magazine, a bestselling book that defined the spirit of the age, fame, wealth. "I have had so much good fortune, and everything is so glorious, yet there's this shadow hanging over me. I just can't keep hold of this good feeling."

When she began *Bitch*, she was determined to kill herself. "My perfect attorney boyfriend had turned out not to be perfect. I was a junkie. I



Natasha Walter: a good start

was on my own in Florida and I thought I was just, like, going to do drugs to death." Yet writing the book lifted her spirits. "I realised the world is a work in progress and I wanted to be part of it."

In conversation, Wurtzel concedes that her argument



In the wake of *Prozac Nation*'s success, Elizabeth Wurtzel is courting literary controversy with her latest book, *Bitch*

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How do you spend your child benefit?

Frank Field wants support for children to be universal - but taxed

To many people, it seems absurd that at a time when government spending is constrained by both the internationalisation of capital markets and the desire of taxpayers to hang on to a good portion of their own money, money is being spent on benefits for the most affluent in the land. Especially when it is hardly noticed. One journalist joked that her weekly child benefit went on a bottle of Sainsbury's champagne: hardly the priority for public spending, surely?

There is a powerful case that changes to society and the economy over the past two or three decades - not least the rise of income inequality - have weakened the case for universal provision. Universalism, designed for a more egalitarian world, has been stretched out of shape by the combined forces of Thatcherism, the skills revolution, labour market change and the recasting of gender relations. So the argument runs.

What, then, is the case for universality? There can be no doubt that this Government sees one. I want to look at child benefit, in part because it is the closest thing we have to a universal benefit and also because the Chancellor, while raising it, has also said he will be looking at the possibility of taxing it.

It seems a bit tough that a young couple struggling to make ends meet should pay more tax because the lawyer and stockbroker up the road decide to have children. Ultimately the debate around child benefit boils down to the way society views children. On the one hand, they can be seen as a choice taken by some couples and not by others. Or children can be seen as having a value to others too, as future taxpayers and workers. I may not have children; but I need someone to have them if my pension is to be paid.

Talking about children in this way sounds ugly, as if they are being commodified into ciphers of future GDP. But in fact it is the other view which is the real commodification - the view which sees children as simply a lifestyle choice on the part of parents, for which no one else has any responsibility. My choice to buy a Rover rather than a Lada would impose no duties on the Lada owner; my decision to have children would impose duties on those without children.

So the case for redistribution from the childless to those with children remains, but the rise in income inequality might suggest that the precise level of support can vary, to take account of different financial circumstances. We might want child benefit for all, but child benefit which is worth more to those on low incomes. Dare I say it? A Third Way. This is the case for making child benefit more generous, but then taxing it. Today, universal benefit need not necessarily mean standardised, ration-book provision.

There is also an argument about the politics of universal benefits. First, people don't

want to pay any more tax than they have to and want resources to be directed to those in real need. Secondly, people will only be prepared to pay taxes if they know they are getting something back. It is easy to mock the argument that middle-class people somehow feel more part of the welfare system as a result of their bottles of Sainsbury's champagne. And I am sure the argument is stronger when it comes to schools and hospitals. But I am convinced benefits play a part too.

We don't all have to receive the same benefits or services. To keep everybody in the state system, we may need to be more flexible, given the rise in expectations among the better-off. We might have to offer an à la carte rather than a fixed-price menu to make sure we all eat in the same restaurant.

But it is simple human nature to want something for our money. Altruism is too delicate a thread on which to hang a welfare system. In the United States, it is standard practice to attack spending on "welfare" - means-tested benefits for the very poorest - while social security, which provides income and health care in retirement for all, is the "third rail" of American politics: touch it and you get fried.

Not universalism is not a state monopoly. The State may have a responsibility to offer support to all children; equally it is the responsibility of all parents to support their own children: that is just as universal. In most cases this happens naturally, especially when the parents are living together in a loving relationship. Even here, mistakes are made. As worthy a man as Sabine Baring Gould - who wrote *Onward Christian Soldiers* and fathered 16 children - made mistakes. At one party, a girl approached him. "What a charming little girl," he exclaimed. "And whose daughter are you?" The child burst into tears and said: "Yours, Papa!"

We are all flawed, all human. But the acceleration of family breakdown has meant that the responsibility to provide care has often been eroded. The Child Support Agency, designed to underpin this universal duty, has been far, far from fulfilling the hopes pinned on it. There are no easy solutions here. Because this area is heavily mined with powerful emotions, we have to advance carefully.

It seems odd to me that the Government can be so adept at collecting income tax and national insurance, and so awful at collecting child support. This is because the CSA formula is so complex. The ideal of finely calibrated treatment is laudable; in practice it has proved so unwieldy and open to abuse that fairness has been lost in the failure to collect. The system has punished the honest and allowed the tricksters off the hook: hardly the fairest outcome.

This is an edited extract from the Minister for Welfare Reform's *Politics* lecture, given on Tuesday evening.



"BLAIR SHOULD BE PLEASED... HE LIKES EARLY RELEASE FOR MURDERERS AT THE MOMENT."

Our dark Continent

Europe needs a new history, but it cannot exclude nightmarish visions we would rather forget, says Mark Mazower

In these past few years there has been much talk of Europe and European civilisation, of anti-Europe and so on. But if we stop to analyse a little more closely what is meant by "Europe", we become aware of the extreme confusion which reigns in the minds of those who talk about it. Not my words but those of the Italian historian Federico Chabod, writing in 1943. Yet they seem to fit our times even better than his; in this week alone Chancellor Kohl is waging lyrical about European unification, while William Hague has gone to Paris to warn in no uncertain terms against the same prospect.

It must be admitted at the outset that whether Europe actually has a history in any conventional sense of the word is open to doubt. Certainly most historians do not seem to believe it does. Their focus is either much narrower or much broader than Europe itself. This is not surprising when we bear in mind that the writing and practice of professional history has been intimately bound up with the rise of nationalism and the nation-state. Historians, in Eric Hobsbawm's vivid phrase, have been drug dealers to the addicts of national self-affirmation. Even today, historians of France and Britain, to take only the most egregious offenders, show little interest in anything outside their national borders.

Those few historians with a wider view, such as Hobsbawm, tend to see Europe in terms of overarching theories of history such as Marxism. They tell the story of the rise of the market, and the struggle between communism and capitalism. Europe becomes an illustration of global processes as much as an object of study in its own right. Some people would even say that today, all history is world history. If they are right, history is going to become very impersonal and dull, for there will be less room for the vignettes and details which bring it to life.

One place where an effort to conceive of European history as a whole can be found is among the works commissioned by Brussels. The European Commission finances the publication of worthy tomes, proving, with the assistance of endless footnotes, that European unity is not only our future but our past. The trouble is that these books are not simply unreadable - they are usually written by committees carefully

selected to weed out national bias - but more importantly, they paint a completely distorted picture of Europe's past, smoothing over diversity and dissension. The spotlight rests on France and Germany, while Poland and the Balkans rate barely a mention. European identity is defined in terms of Christianity, but it is a very curious kind of Christianity which does not really accept Orthodoxy, let alone Judaism and Islam. As propaganda they are unimpressive; as efforts to find the truth, they are virtually worthless.

Some works on European history stand the test of time, yet it seems that a common reaction to the bloody struggles of this century has been simply to deny their interconnection. One side is made to stand for the true Europe - the "European Europe" if you will, in precisely the sense employed in the term "European Community", while the others are written off as usurpers or barbarians. But if we face the fact that liberal democracy failed in one country after another after 1918, and if we admit that communism and fascism also formed part of the Continent's political heritage and emerged from its culture, then it is hard to deny that what has shaped Europe in this century is not a gradual convergence of thought and feeling but, on the contrary, a series of violent clashes between antagonistic new orders. If we search for Europe as what Chabod called "an historic and moral individuality", we will find that for much of this century it did not exist.

In short, Europe's history since 1918 can be nothing other than the history of Europe's various dreams and visions of itself. What one cannot do, if one is serious, is to exclude regimes from history's mainstream on the grounds of their barbarism or the insanity of their rulers. History is not a kind of club from which regimes may be blackballed for bad behaviour. The fact is that millions of Germans supported Hitler, and that by 1940, millions of other Europeans had

come to regard the Nazi new order as the most likely way to restore stability to the Continent after the failure of Versailles.

We in Britain like to think we stood outside these events, and it is true that by escaping enemy occupation, we avoided what was perhaps the single most important, traumatic and formative political experience of the rest of the Continent. Nevertheless, we have less ground for complacency than we like to believe. Only the outbreak of war in 1939 prevented the head of Scotland Yard from attending a seminar in Munich on modern policing methods; he had been due to visit Dachau and to hear the head of the Gestapo lecture on new techniques of crime prevention. Nazi racism, too, was part of a much broader European discourse about racial superiority and population decline in which Britain participated, both in the Empire and at home.

Our understanding of European history has been distorted by the selective forgetting and reshaping of the past which took place during the Cold War. For example, the greatest single forced population movement of the century - the expulsion of more than 10 million Germans from central and eastern Europe after 1945 - is largely unknown today. The reason is clear: the subject was taboo in Germany and uncomfortable almost everywhere else. Yet it is impossible to gauge the differences between Hitler's Germany and Helmut Kohl's on the basis of such ignorance. German expansionism between 1870 and 1945 was motivated by a dream of bringing together all Germans in a single country. This has now happened, though scarcely in the way Hitler envisaged. As the century ends, it is time to move beyond the myths that have comforted us through the postwar decades.

If we can look our past in the face, what has it to tell us about the future? First, I think, that the European Union is in large measure the fruit of attempts to tackle a problem that no longer exists. The determination to have unity at all costs stems from a deep-seated panic. At the heart of the

late-20th century European project are memories of Franco-German rivalry and the wars this led to.

Yet nation-states have changed their spots since 1945 and the danger of war, or at least of this kind of war, has subsided. Ironically, where war is now virtually impossible to conceive - in Western Europe - the EU pushes ahead with plans for ever-closer union; where it is more likely - in the Balkans - it can do little to affect the course of events. Having laid claim to the title of Europe, the EU now feels impelled to embrace enlargement, bringing it - as now with Cyprus and Poland - to zones of international tension. Better to have been more honest and to have confessed that the EU was really misnamed: it represented an arrangement of economic convenience among a small group of prosperous West European states. But the time for such honesty has passed.

Secondly, the nation-state is changing but not withering away. Economically, it is losing power to global forces and needs the EU because modern capitalism is too strong for it. Politically, however, it remains the focus of the allegiance and loyalty of the overwhelming majority of people in Europe. Thus the EU needs the nation-state, too.

If Chancellor Kohl is haunted by historical fears which have lost their basis in reality, William Hague's fears for the future are equally groundless. Economic and monetary union (EMU) may be another step along the road to a European superstate, but it is far more likely that Europe's political future will take the form of some continued intermeshing of national and supra-national institutions, while EMU itself could well end up looking rather like the old 19th-century gold standard, another fixed exchange rate system in which sovereign nation-states existed quite comfortably for decades. Everything depends on whether one sees history as a story of inevitable victories and forward marches, or a series of close shaves and unexpected twists. This century's forward marches have all eventually ground to a halt; the unexpected invariably wins out.

The author's latest book, *The Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century*, is published next month by Allen Lane/The Penguin Press.

Allergic to life? Just relax

Magnus Linklater on why our cells are overreacting all over

Weather forecasts these days are for hypochondriacs as well as depressives. The pollen count is up, so it's bad news for hay fever victims. The sun is out, so we're at risk of skin cancer. Hardly surprising that the nation seems to be developing a collective allergy. For me, the most stunning medical statistic of the week is that 40 per cent of our schoolchildren now suffer from allergies of one sort or another. By the year 2019, we are told, one in four adults will be a martyr to asthma, hay fever or eczema.

How pathetic, was my immediate reaction. We wipe out the big killers such as typhoid and diphtheria, now all we have to complain about are a few sniffles and skin rashes. What a nation of wimps! All right, I withdraw that remark. As a lifetime sufferer myself, I know what misery hay fever can be: as an asthmatic I cannot move far without my inhaler; afflicted by eczema as a child (when the only treatment was spreading the skin with tar), I take real allergies as seriously as anyone.

I am less convinced by the statistics. Just as crime figures are always open to misinterpretation, so is an allergy epidemic. A rise in reported crime may reflect a better detection rate, or a different way of categorising it. An increase in allergies may indicate more efficient diagnosis, or greater awareness, or just that allergies are the current medical vogue, like herpes used to be. So I take the latest figures with a pinch of non-allergy-inducing salt. Even the most grudging sceptic, however, has to accept that the trend is upwards, and that the explanation is hard to pin down.

The most convincing evidence emerges from a massive survey carried out over a five-year period in East Germany, where 2,000 children aged between nine and 11 were tested for allergies before and after reunification with West Germany. The number suffering from hay fever rose from one in 50 in 1991 to one in 20 in 1996. Eczema increased from 19 per cent to 27 per cent. Researchers found that the children reacted to the trappings of modern life such as wall-to-wall carpets, centrally heated houses, pets and processed foods. East Germans, it seemed, were allergic to capitalism.

But it is a little more complex than that. As a one-man survey myself, everything I have experienced flies directly in the face of the East German results. I grew up in a large, draughty house with no central heating, where wall-to-wall carpeting was an unheard-of luxury and most processed foods were unavailable. I spent, nevertheless, a childhood afflicted by sneezing, inflamed eyes, congested lungs and burning skin. I have since graduated to what might be classified as a West German standard of living, and find that I suffer less, not more. My hay fever has subsided, the asthma is under control, the eczema has gone altogether. My non-scientific explanation is that my body has gradually built up something approaching an immune system, helped by a crude but successful programme of injections in my early twenties which strengthened my resistance to household dust, cats, horses and hay.

There would appear to be no obvious reason why a new generation of allergy sufferers should not similarly develop immunity. It seems, however, that the body's defence systems have more to contend with these days. Recent studies show that there are more pollutants in the air, more chemicals in our food, more pesticides on our fields, more man-made fibres in our clothes. The "mast cells" which patrol our bodies, ever on the lookout for dangerous intruders, thus have their work cut out. As soon as they detect a new and threatening substance, they react - some might say overreact - by sending out their own barrage of chemicals, including histamines, which cause tightening of lung muscles, inflammation of skin, all the characteristic symptoms of the allergic victim. Someone compared them to a tiny landmine lurking just below the skin, ready to rupture and explode as soon as a foreign body approaches.

Why they should feel it necessary to do so defeats me - as it defeats many scientists. It is almost as if, deprived of the real work they once had to do, such as fighting off polio or smallpox, our cells have had to invent new scare stories to keep them busy. A recent study in Africa gives some credence to this. It suggests that the original intention of the mast cells was to destroy tropical parasites such as tapeworms. Since Western man no longer has to worry much about tapeworms, the cells have found substitute enemies to take their place. Peanuts, milk, shellfish, nickel, latex, food additives, colouring, all of them have joined a list of potentially dangerous substances. There are doubtless more to come.

Perhaps our body systems are beginning to pick up some of our well-known paranoia about modern life. The more we worry about what we eat, drink or breathe, the more, perhaps, those mast cells get nervous too. Maybe if we calmed down a bit, they would get the message and relax a little. It's just a theory.

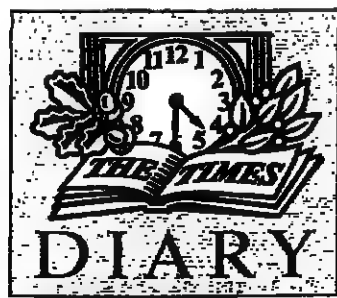
Lib fems

PADDY ASHDOWN is facing a day in the dock, having apparently ignored legal advice from Cherie Booth. The Liberal Democrat leader sought the views of the Prime Minister's wife in her capacity as a barrister over whether his party's candidate-selection policy contravenes the Sex Discrimination Act. Ashdown has put his authority behind a system called "zipping" for next year's Euro elections, to ensure that half the Lib Dem candidates are women. The policy was endorsed by party feminists but now Graham Elson, the secretary-general of the Liberal Democrats at the time, claims they were misled. Elson had sought advice from Booth and from Lord Lester of Herne Hill, who both apparently said the policy would cause legal problems. But Ashdown went ahead, and now faces a challenge from Elson and cronies. Nick Harvey, MP, the Liberal Democrats' campaign chief, says Elson is bitter: "Graham applied to be a candidate but the panel decided he did not merit selection - and it was nothing to do with gender." Harvey admits the party is treading in "murky" legal waters, but his recollection of Cherie Booth's ad-

vice is rather different: "Cherie is the number one in this field." How charming that the PM's wife holds such influence over Liberal Democrat policy.

● THE PRINCE OF WALES is a chocoholic. The Prince confided his sweet tooth during a royal visit to a Jewish old people's home in North London, telling Betty Harris, trusty minder of the home's

vice shop: "I didn't know Mars Bars were kosher. How wonderful."



Swart shop: "I didn't know Mars Bars were kosher. How wonderful."

Ooh la la

BLUE Tories in red-light scandal, as the small prints might describe this French frolic. Tories in Fontainebleau for William Hague's speech were told by his office to stay at the Hotel Sophia. I do not know what kind of establishment it was when Hague was a student in the town, but Tories found it rather racy. Scantly-clad women greeted them, willing to explain the delights of Euro integration - for £20 each. Most Tories fled, but Central Office's Priti Patel, who organised the trip. She said: "It was fine for a quick stopover."

● Sir Denis Thatcher, master of the balanced comment, enjoyed

the loyal toast at a recent dinner. As glasses were raised to shouts of "the Queen", he grabbed the microphone: "And sod the Euro."

Frill seeker

VALERIE CAMPBELL, Naomi's more beautiful mother, has confessed her frustration at being unable to find a regular armistice since the death of the Duke of Northumberland. "I decided I wasn't going to look any more, but that was six months ago and it still hasn't worked," says Ms Campbell, 45. "Men don't seem to go for me."



Unattached: Valerie Campbell

don't know why. I must be the unluckiest person. I might have to wear garters and suspenders and let my breasts hang out." I counsel that this new tactic might prove a little more fruitful.

● NEIGHBOURS are learning not to mess with Janet Street-Porter. The voice from Hell caught one dumping a bag of rubbish outside her London home this week. Not content with asking him to remove it, she summoned the full range of her vocabulary before concluding that the offender was a "fat pig".

Angry bear

THAT cuddly colossus, Terry Waite, has joined the chorus of outrage over the Queen's "decision" to honour Emperor Akihito of Japan. Waite, the former Beirut hostage, has found common cause with British PoWs who blanch at the plan to invest Akihito with the Order of the Garter. He has agreed to become president of a Far East Prisoners of War Association. "Ex-prisoners deserve an unqualified apology," says Waite, from a quiet hideaway in the Suffolk countryside. "They take exception to Akihito being invested with one of the highest awards the nation can offer." I suspect that Prince Philip is discreetly raising a glass.



Four quotes: Stella McCartney

● STELLA MCCARTNEY, the designer daughter of Sir Paul, has taken up her late mother's crusade against the maltreatment of animals. She has just narrated a video attacking women who wear fur, which is to be sent to designers and editors. It shows nice foxes being treated badly by nasty farmers. Meanwhile, I gather that the Vegetarian Society claims an increase in converts since Linda McCartney's death. Her legacy looks safe.

JASPER GERARD



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OBITUARIES

BORIS FORD

Boris Ford, literary critic and educationist, died on May 19 aged 80. He was born on July 1, 1917.

A leading member of what might be called the second generation of the Leavis school of critics and a personal protégé of F. R. Leavis himself, Boris Ford nevertheless spread his net wide as an educator, entering fields of which the master would certainly not have approved. Thus he was not only an elegant writer and discriminating editor but was prepared to take on such a job as head of schools broadcasting in Associated-Rediffusion Television in the mid-1950s. Such a move would certainly have been stigmatised as vulgarising by Leavis but by that time, in any event, Ford had already been banished from the inner circle.

Nevertheless, Ford possessed all his mentor's intellectual rigour without ever consenting to narrow his outlook, as Leavis did. He was also happily free of that rancid fanaticism which latterly characterised the debates of Leavis and his acolytes, and made the reading of English at Cambridge something of a battlefield in the 1960s.

Ford's monument is the *Pelican Guide to English Literature*, which appeared in seven volumes between 1954 and 1961 and was reissued — extensively rewritten and expanded — in the 1980s. Although an invaluable survey for successive generations of students, it was in no sense a "crib". It set itself high standards; indeed, many of its contributors were among the best who had written for *Scrutiny* from 1932. If he had not previously had an excuse to tell out his gifted pupil, Leavis found a pretext in this, accusing Ford of poaching his writers and forcing the closure of *Scrutiny* in 1953. As in all other such cases, the excommunication of Ford, once uttered, was never rescinded.

Besides his work as a writer and editor, Ford held successive chairs of education at Sheffield, Sussex and Bristol. But until he went to the first of these posts in 1960, his career had been outside academia, and this may have contributed to the breadth of his outlook.



Ford: Leavisite intellectual rigour, without the constricting fanaticism

Boris Ford was born into an Army family, the son of an Indian Army officer, Brigadier G. N. Ford and his Russian wife Ekaterina. But he was brought back to England for his education, first to Cambridge where he became head chorister at King's College School and then to Gresham's

School, Holt. There he was taught English by Denis Thompson who, with L. C. Knights was co-editor of *Scrutiny*. Knights' provocative essay *How Many Children Had Lady Macbeth?* (1933) — one of the early salvoes in the battle against critical habits of mind which reigned in schools of English in the 1930s — was one of Ford's first school prizes. Knights often visited Thompson at Gresham's School and Ford was invited to join this august pair in their learned ramblings over the sands of Wells-next-the-Sea.

It was a natural progression for Ford to go, in 1935, to Downing College, Cambridge, where his studies were supervised by Leavis. Under Leavis, Ford made rapid progress; one of his undergraduate essays, on *Wuthering Heights*, so pleased his tutor that Leavis had it published in *Scrutiny* of which, though he had no formal position on the editorial board, he was of course the guiding spirit.

Ford graduated with first class honours in English in 1939, on the eve of the outbreak of war. Joining the Army, he immediately gravitated to-

wards the education side, and from 1940 to 1946 was Officer Commanding the Middle East School of Artistic Studies, an imaginative attempt to provide education for other ranks in the Middle East Command, through the staging of plays, poetry readings, creative writing exercises and other stimuli. Between 1946 and 1949 he was, successively, chief editor, deputy director and finally director of the Bureau of Current Affairs.

In 1951 he was appointed information officer of the technical assistance board of the United Nations, working in Geneva and New York; in 1953 he became secretary of the National Enquiry into Liberalising Technical Education (1953-55). He had already published *Discussion Method* (1949) and a *Teachers' Handbook to Human Rights* (1950).

It was in the seven-year period when he was, in succession, Editor of the *Journal of Education* and Head of Schools Broadcasting, Independent Television, and then Education Secretary of Cambridge University Press that the seven volumes of the *Pelican Guide* emerged from Penguin. Not all the volumes were greeted with the same enthusiasm. With so many of the distinguished band of Leavisites among its contributors it could hardly escape falling occasionally into the didacticism germane to that school. Extremes of opinion were not always clearly enough telegraphed to the non-specialist reader. Minor poetic talents, such as those of Rupert Brooke and Dylan Thomas, were occasionally dismissed as being of no account. There were oddities of balance, as in the medieval volume where Chaucer's *Troilus and Criseyde* was inadequately dealt with. But by the time the seventh volume, *The Modern Age*, appeared in 1961 it was apparent that it provided an at least highly stimulating discussion of English literature from earliest times to the 20th century.

In the midst of this, the appointment of Ford as Independent Television's head of schools broadcasting had been an imaginative one. ITV was ahead of BBC Television in this respect. But Ford's time in television was not to be the fruitful one he had hoped. Within a year he had resigned over the principle of the intrusion of advertising which, given the commercial nature of the beast, was scheduled to invade his programmes, too.

From CUP Ford embarked on his academic career proper. From the Cambridge University Press he went to Sheffield University where he was Professor of Education from 1960 to 1963. From Sheffield he went to the new University of Sussex where he was Professor of Education for the next ten years. Finally, in 1973 he moved to Bristol, where he was Professor of Education until his retirement in 1982. This period gave rise to a number of educational publications.

By that time it had become apparent that the *Pelican Guide* needed revision and the 11 volumes of the *New Pelican Guide to English Literature* were issued between 1982 and 1988. Yet another large editing task awaited Ford, and the *Cambridge Guide to the Arts in Britain* appeared in nine volumes, between 1988 and 1991. Benjamin Britten's *Poets* (1994), which he edited, was an examination of the poets the composer chose to set to music and the personal philosophy of life implied by his choice.

Along with art (he was a contributor to *Modern Painters*), music was to be one of Ford's ruling passions throughout his life. He was a more than competent pianist and loved to sing into old age. Within the last ten years he had developed a counter-tenor voice — "my real voice these days," he seems, "he remarked.

Ford's marriage in 1950 to his first wife, Noreen, was dissolved, as was his marriage in 1977 to his second wife, Inge. He is survived by the son and three daughters of his first marriage.

JOHN TITCHELL



Titchell the pointillist: "the Seurat of Kent"

John Titchell, RA, painter, died on May 11 aged 71. He was born on August 6, 1926.

KENNETH CLARK once called John Titchell "the Seurat of Kent". The description may not have been quite fair — to either artist — but it nicely conveys both the radiance of Titchell's pointillist technique, and the intensity of his concern with the nature of light.

John Titchell was born in Crayford, West Kent, and educated at the local elementary school. He served in the Army from 1945 to 1947, almost entirely in India, a country which impressed him deeply. He then attended Sidcup School of Art, and from there won a place at the Royal College of Art.

At the Royal College he extended his natural talent for tone and atmospheric colour, always with a strong feeling for the character of a place. During his postgraduate course he also experimented with the assemblage of objects found in the street — bric-a-brac and the like. Had he persisted in this vein he might have established himself as one of the first British Pop artists, displaying more wit than many later exponents. But he soon returned to his natural gifts of tonality, light and colour.

In due course he moved to East Kent, to an old cottage near Pluckley (a house which he and his wife, Audrey, eventually bought). Here he developed his painting into a form of very personal and highly chromatic pointillism.

Latterly he came more and more to use intense water-colour, which allowed him to produce a heightened and shimmering intensity of atmospheric light. "Here is my subject matter," he used to explain, "my garden, local trees, the beach at Deal. But it all has to be dealt with through this stuff that comes between me and the subject" — by which he meant the air.

He would nearly always pick a few limited subjects and paint a series of them seen through all hours of the varying daylight. He extended this to Venice, where instead of wandering among the usual tourist views, he would pick a single equestrian statue on the Riva degli Schiavoni and assiduously follow the changing play of light upon it.

He always had original things to say about painting and people. A fine teacher, too, he was a splendid (and well-read) raconteur. He was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy in 1986 and an Academician in 1991.

He is survived by his wife Audrey, and by a son and a daughter.

SIR JOHN NABARRO

Sir John Nabarro, physician, died on April 28 aged 82. He was born on December 21, 1915.

TO THOSE who knew only his stern presence at committee meetings in his later years, Sir John Nabarro seemed an unlikely reformer. But he was in many ways a fine example of the old tradition of London teaching hospital physicians, and had a remarkable impact on various aspects of medicine nationwide.

As chairman of the joint consultants committee of the British Medical Association and the Conference of Royal Medical Colleges, he created order out of chaos and introduced the then novel concept of manpower planning for junior doctors. He devised a system for matching junior posts to likely consultant va-

cancies, which was much criticised but was effective and looks remarkably good when compared with current efforts. He was chairman of the committee at the start of the Thatcher Government's reforms, and did much to limit the damage of some of the more vigorous proposals, when enthusiasm had outrun common sense.

Sir John was also a leading light in the diabetes world. He was a masterly chairman of the medical and scientific section of the British Diabetic Association and then of the association itself, steering through a series of crucial changes. His ability to run meetings was legendary. The most ornate agenda melted away as with ruthless logic he produced a short meeting with a clear, unequivocal outcome. This appeared a little autocrat-



ic to some, but was greatly appreciated by those with trains to catch. He was devoted to his patients and through the British Diabetic Association he persuaded the Government to give free prescrip-

tions for disposable syringes and blood glucose test strips. John David Nunes Nabarro was born in London. His father was a Sephardic Jewish pathologist who worked at Great Ormond Street, his mother a nursing sister. He was educated at University College School, Hampstead, and Oundle. He moved on to University College Medical School, where he won a range of prizes and joined enthusiastically, though not expertly, in rugby and tennis.

He passed the primary FRCS exam before qualifying in 1938, and had a flying start by working for the eminent physician Sir Thomas Lewis before being called up in 1939. He then oscillated around the Home Counties in various roles before being shipped out to Egypt. In the event, he went to Iraq via Palestine, then

back to Egypt and the Italian front. Thereafter he applied for transfer to general medicine and spent a happy period in Cairo and Haifa, finally being demobbed in December 1945.

He rapidly passed the MRCP exam and the MD shortly afterwards and became successively assistant medical registrar and senior registrar. During this period he was noted for marrying one of the house physicians in the hospital and for propelling a grand piano down a stairwell. It is rumoured that the latter resulted in his moving in 1954 as consultant to the Middlesex, where he remained until his retirement in 1981. He then became director of the new Institute of Clinical Sciences. He received many honours in medicine and diabetes, and was knighted in 1983.

Though specialising in diabetes and endocrinology, he was par excellence a general physician — an endangered species today. He published nearly 200 papers, combining careful clinical observation with meticulous laboratory work. In particular he investigated and trained many younger people, several of whom have become distinguished medical scientists. The essence of the man was thoroughness and attention to detail, combined with ruthless logic and a dagger-sharp mind.

In his final retirement he committed himself to philately with particular reference to Netherlands covers, and showed the same obsession as he had with medicine. He is survived by his wife, Joan, and by two sons and two daughters.

John Louis Gili (Joan Gili i Serra), antiquarian bookseller, translator and publisher, died on May 6 aged 91. He was born on February 10, 1907.

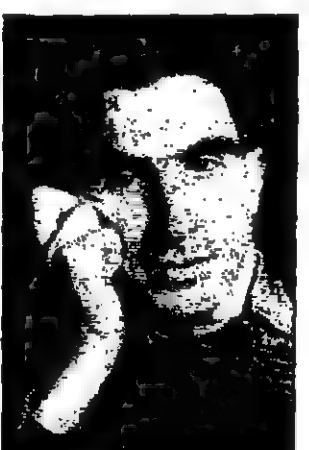
JOHN LOUIS GILI was the last of a distinguished generation of British booksellers that included David Low, Harold Edwards and Peter Murray Hill. But he stood slightly apart. Born a Catalan, he thought of himself as belonging to two countries. He adopted the anglicised name of John on his naturalisation in 1948, but was known to his family and friends by his Catalan name, Joan. When written rather than spoken, this could cause confusion.

He was brought up in Barcelona, where his father ran a religious publishing house. One of his sisters became a Carmelite nun, but he himself was not a believer. Feeling stifled by middle-class Barcelona society, he developed a passion for English literature, particularly the short story, about which he wrote regularly in *La Publicista*. One day he read an article in *The Bookman* that led to a correspondence with its author, C. Henry Warren, a well-known writer about the countryside. When Warren invited him to visit England in 1933, he jumped at the opportunity. He fell in love with the country and in October 1934 settled here for good. The Spanish Civil War and the Second World War intervened, and he was not to see his family again for 15 years.

Together with Warren, he opened a bookshop in Cecil Court, off Charing Cross Road, called the Dolphin. At first they sold English as well as Spanish books, but it was the Spanish books that made money. Gili bought out Warren, and sold the English stock to Harold Edwards, his neighbour in Cecil Court. The Dolphin bookshop became the first in Britain to specialise in Spanish and Latin American books and manuscripts. He built up important collections of material relating to the 18th-century War of the Spanish Succession and of Catalan manuscripts from 911 to 1850, which are now in the Bodleian Library at Harvard.

In 1938 Gili started his series of Hispanic publications. As well as textbooks and literary studies, there were English translations of authors such as Miguel de Unamuno, Luis Cernuda, the Nobel prizewinner Juan Ramón Jiménez and Pablo Neruda, and of Federico García Lorca. (*Poems*, translated in collaboration with Stephen Spender, was one of the first books to introduce Lorca's writing to an English-speaking audience.)

In the 1950s Gili was asked by Penguin Books to make a



new prose translation of Lorca's poems; this bilingual edition was a significant influence on several generations. Equally influential was his *Introductory Catalan Grammar*, originally published in 1943, when Catalan was banned by the Franco regime, and still in print today.

As a registered alien during the Second World War, Gili was not allowed to help the war effort, not even to help fight fires. By then he was married, and he moved the Dolphin bookshop to Oxford, where his baby son co-existed happily with the books. The end of the war found the household relocated to a Victorian mansion in North Oxford, where two more children were born and the books expanded to fill two floors.

In 1954 the Catalan nationalist Josep M. Bausis i Roca conceived the idea of an Anglo-Catalan Society, of which Gili was a founding member and later president. He became known as the "unofficial consul of the Catalans in Britain", and was honoured by the Catalan Government for his role in promoting Catalan literature.

After Lorca, he turned to the great Catalan poets, translating work by Carles Riba, Salvador Espriu and Josep Carner. He used his scholarship to edit the texts he published, and his stylish typographical sense to design the "Dolphin" books and catalogues.

An honorary MA from Oxford awarded in 1987, together with his attachment to Exeter College, gave him particular pleasure as he had not had a university education.

He is survived by his wife Elizabeth and their two sons and a daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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NEWS

Freed nurse faces trial in Britain

Lucille McLaughlin, one of the two British nurses who will arrive in London today after being freed from jail in Saudi Arabia, has been summoned to appear in a Scottish court next month charged with stealing £1,740 from a dying Aids patient. The Procurator Fiscal in Dundee obtained a warrant citing her to appear at Dundee Sheriff Court on June 18 after learning that she was coming home. Pages 1, 3

Barbara Mills leaves before CPS report

Dame Barbara Mills, QC, Director of Public Prosecutions, announced she will leave her post early ending weeks of speculation about her future as head of the Crown Prosecution Service. The abrupt announcement comes just two weeks before publication of a major report into the service which is expected to contain a damning indictment. Pages 1, 2

Sinatra buried

Frank Sinatra was buried next to his parents after a private funeral and a vigil at which he was remembered as a great man — if not always a good one. Page 1

Dramatic exit

The Arts Council's Drama Advisory Panel, including some of the most distinguished figures in the theatre, resigned because they said they faced being turned into "token luvvies". Page 1

Victim's love

The last words of a charity worker stabbed through the heart by muggers were, "tell my girlfriend I love her and would have married her". The Old Bailey was told. Page 6

Bookshop town

As one of the world's leading writers descend on Hay-on-Wye for its eleventh annual literary festival, Wigtown in Dumfries and Galloway, is seeking similar recognition. Page 8

ME girl's victory

A teenager suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome, known as ME, won a victory in the House of Lords against a council's decision to cut her home tuition. Page 9

Price reductions

The Government ordered an end to the recommended retail price system, and paved the way for reductions of up to 25 per cent for some electrical goods. Page 10

Cheese race is a dangerous sport

They have been perfecting the art of spinning cheeses at great speed down the side of Cooper's Hill for a few years now. According to some in the Cotswolds, it was the Romans who first set the Double Gloucesters rolling at Witcombe, near Gloucester. But this year the Whitson race will not happen. The authorities say it is too dangerous. Page 5

Sound and fury

Ear-splitting films are in danger of driving audiences from the cinema, movie makers were told in Cannes. Page 11

Brain implant

A brain implant for Parkinson's disease sufferers was licensed for use after trials showed that it could dramatically reduce the violent shakes. Page 13

Iran talks

A new era of relations between Iran and the European Union has been opened after the first positive talks between a senior Foreign Office official and his counterpart from Tehran. Page 14

Falklands oil

After only two weeks of drilling, an international oil company has discovered oil in the waters off the Falklands, raising the prospect of an oil bonanza in the South Atlantic. Page 15

Suharto threat

The Suharto regime used the threat of a military response to force opposition leaders to call off a million-strong march on central Jakarta. Page 16

Masterpiece hunt

Interpol launched an international hunt for two priceless masterpieces by Van Gogh and a valuable landscape by Cézanne after a daring burglary at the Museum of Modern Art in Rome. Page 18



There was confrontation for Mo Mowlam in Belfast City centre during a walkabout before tomorrow's referendum. Pages 1, 7

BUSINESS

Misleading: British Biotech misled a Stock Exchange investigation about the extent of its knowledge about the side effect problems caused by one of its cancer drugs. Page 27

Suspensions: Four former directors of Morgan Grenfell were suspended by a City watchdog for their roles in the Peter Young unit scandal. Page 27

Sunday banking: Banks moved a step closer to full Sunday trading as Halifax announced it was providing a seven-day-a-week service in 100 branches. Page 27

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 29.6 to 5907.4. The pound fell to 102 from 103.1 after rising 72 cents to \$1.6315 and falling 1.07 pfennig to DM2.88. Page 30

SPORT

Cricket: Graham Thorpe, the rock of many England innings, has suffered a recurrence of back trouble and is likely to miss the first one-day international. Page 32

Football: In the hope of ensuring England are not swept away in FIFA's clean-up campaign Glenn Hoddle has brought in Paul Durkin to referee England's training sessions. Page 49

Rugby union: Wales, who are already without several leading players for their tour of southern Africa, may also lose Allan Bateman, who needs a nose operation. Page 47

Equestrianism: Britain's hopes of success at the 2000 Olympic Games received a boost with the award of a £762,000 grant from the Lottery Sports Fund. Page 44

ARTS

Film 1: The Cannes Film Festival is in full swing, and a British film is talk of the town — John Maybury's *Love is the Devil*, about the life of Francis Bacon. Page 36

Film 2: The best of the week's new movies reviewed, from the Hollywood satire of *The Real Blonde* to the old-fashioned song-and-dance of *Blues Brothers 2000*. Page 37

Live and wired: In Dublin The Verve celebrated their ten-time platinum album *Urban Hymns* with a live gig that preached integrity to 8,000 disciples. Page 38

Mostly acting: At the Chichester Festival Theatre a huge meal is being cooked and eaten nightly on stage. Daniel Rosenthal savours other great moments of dramatic cuisine. Page 39

FEATURES

Dr Thomas Stuttaford: Why doctors must be truthful; worm-infested royals; and the secrets of hair. Page 20

Baby burnout: Ballet, violin, drama, parties... the mere thought of after-school "fun" makes India Knight tired. Page 21

Calling slackers: Elizabeth Wurtzel, self-styled icon of the slacker generation, has arrived trailing jet streams of controversy behind her about her new work, *Bitch*. Jason Cowley reports. Page 21

Reviews: Russell Celyn Jones enjoys David Mamet's short new novel; Roy Foster looks at the emunies of rural Ireland; Peter Siothard discusses the suicidal spirit of Greece. Pages 40, 41

Best buys: Ride for a pound in the great railway bargain; good deals for the Mediterranean; two Australian weeks for about £400. Page 42

The European Union is heading straight for paralysis and the despair of its citizens. There is always talk about a "political Europe", but now is the time to act. It is imperative to give the Commission a stronger, more legitimate, visible and political president. — *Le Soir*, Brussels

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

MEDIA
The Human Body: how they made the groundbreaking BBC-TV series

EDUCATION
Fred Redwood wonders whether this week's teacher training reforms will go far enough



FORECAST

General: cooler across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, with more cloud, but still warm in the South. Scotland will have a cool day with sunny spells.
London, SE & E England, E Anglia, E & W Midlands: misty with patchy drizzle, brightening later. Wind N, light. Max 20C (68F).
Central S & SW England: fresher. Sunny spells. Wind N, light. Max 20C (68F).
Channel Isles: mist patches clearing to leave sunny spells. Wind N, light. Max 20C (68F).
N & S Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: cloud with sunny spells, occasional showers. Wind light, NW. Max 20C (68F).
Central N, NE England: dull and misty, some drizzle, brighter later. Wind light, NW. Max 18C (64F).
Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW & NE Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: mostly dry, bright spells. Wind light, NE. Max 17C (63F).
NW Scotland: dry, sunny spells. Wind NW, light. Max 14C (57F).
N Ireland: cloudy, some sunny intervals. Wind NW, light. Max 18C (64F).
Republic of Ireland: mainly dry with sunny spells. Wind N, light. Max 22C (72F).
Outlook: mostly dry. Sunny spells.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Abertawe	14.4	0.01	11	52	1	10
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ABROAD

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Abertawe	14.4	0.01	11	52	1	10

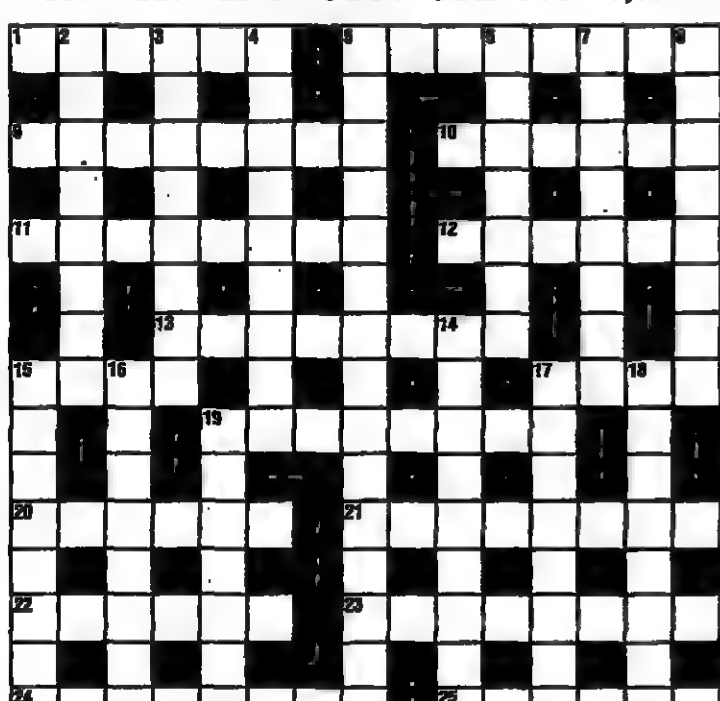
HIGHEST & LOWEST

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
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HIGHEST & LOWEST

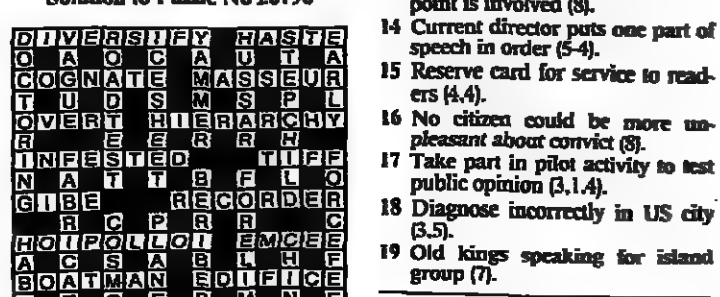
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Abertawe	14.4	0.01	11	52	1	10
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THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,797



- ACROSS**
- Capital source of milk for doctor? (6)
 - No book-lover, but he's not common (6)
 - David shows MP is last resort (8)
 - Raise a bit of money before the match (4,2)
 - Having left path, I will return to Welsh town (8)
 - Guard required for prince's cortege (6)
 - Display, we hear, horse or cow (8)
 - Quails when the governor appears around five (4)
 - Put one's foot in it? On the contrary, hand (4)
 - Celebration of life as TV broadcast (8)
 - Exhausting task making king more pooty (6)
- DOWN**
- Discarded fish has to be thrown outside (8)
 - Island state with military officer on top (8)
 - Unlike the small print, it's very obvious (4,5)
 - Against being a candidate as yet (15)
 - Appear to understand brief examination (4,3)
 - Feel nostalgic for our island state (8)
 - He shows favouritism where set point is involved (8)
 - Current director puts one part of speech in order (5,4)
 - Reserve card for service to readers (4,4)
 - No citizen could be more unpleasant about convict (8)
 - Take part in pilot activity to test public opinion (3,1,4)
 - Diagnose incorrectly in US city (3,5)
 - Old kings speaking for island group (7)

Solution to Puzzle No 20,796



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,797
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Latest Read and Weather conditions

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
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Abertawe	14.4	0.01	11	52	1	10
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World City Weather

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
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Sunrise

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
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Abertawe	14.4	0.01	11	52	1	10
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Abertawe	14.4	0.01	11	52	1	10
Abertawe	14.4	0.01	11	52	1	10
Abertawe	14.4	0.01	11	52	1	10
Abertawe	14.4	0.01	11	52	1	10

Sunset

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
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Abertawe	14.4	0.01	11	52	1	10
Abertawe	14.4	0.01	11	52	1	10
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Abertawe	14.4	0.01	11	52	1	10
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Abertawe	14.4	0.01	11	52	1	10
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Moonrise

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
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Moonset

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THE TIMES

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TODAY



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a bright new film
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SPORT
Beckham learns
to play football's
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**TELEVISION
AND
RADIO**
**PAGES
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY MAY 21 1998

Biotech 'misled Stock Exchange'

By PAUL DURMAN

BRITISH BIOTECH misled a Stock Exchange investigation about the extent of its knowledge about the side-effect problems caused by one of its cancer drugs.

The directors' knowledge of the side-effect problems of batimastat are at the heart of the Stock Exchange's investigation into allegations of insider dealing by Keith McCullagh, who this week agreed to stand down as chief executive of the troubled drug development company.

British Biotech's misleading comments are disclosed in a report prepared by Cameron McKenna, the law firm called in to investigate concerns raised by Andy Millar, sacked last month as director of clinical research.

The company has for the past month relied on an application for an injunction to prevent *The Times* publishing the contents of the Cameron McKenna report. Yesterday the paper forced British Biotech to abandon its attempt to prevent the full story from coming out.

In a letter to the Stock Exchange in May 1995, Biotech's company secretary said directors had been told that the batimastat trial was "proceeding normally" in January 1995 — the month in which Dr McCullagh and two former directors sold £1.35 million shares.

Cameron McKenna comments that this account contradicts its own findings — that by January 10, 1995, the batimastat trial was "delicately poised", company scientists and medical investigators having agreed to monitor further problems very carefully. Dr McCullagh, Sir Brian Richards and John Gordon sold their shares on January 17.

Peter Lewis, the former research and development director who told the board that the trial was proceeding normally, admitted to Cameron McKenna that there was a "question mark" over the trial from January 10 onwards.

In an affidavit prepared for *The Times*, Dr Millar makes the same point more forcefully: "By now there was a significant doubt about the future of the study and the drug; and I know from my recollection of discussions with both Dr Lewis and Mr McCullagh at the time that they were fully aware of this."

The Cameron McKenna account of the batimastat affair is more damaging than Biotech's own version, published in a circular to shareholders on Tuesday. But those close to the events say the report is itself seriously inadequate.

Suspensions for quartet of ex-MGAM executives

By RICHARD MILES

FOUR former executives of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management have been suspended for up to three years by a City watchdog for their part in the Peter Young unit trust scandal.

Each of the four admitted to a string of Imro charges that MGAM senior managers failed to take adequate steps to control Mr Young in the 12 months before the forced suspension of the three funds under his control in September 1996. Imro is also believed to be investigating two other former MGAM officials, including the erstwhile global head of business, Keith Perry.

Mr Perry and his five former colleagues left MGAM in the autumn of 1996 after the firm's parent, Deutsche Bank, was forced to bail out 180,000 small investors by pumping £180 million into the three funds run by Mr Young. The total compensation bill for Deutsche exceeded £400 million, and MGAM was fined a record £2 million by Imro.

Michael Wheatley, the director of compliance, received the stiffest of yesterday's penalties. He has been suspended for three years and permanently restricted from holding a compliance position. Imro said Mr Wheatley had failed to investigate the unlisted companies created and utilised by Mr Young to acquire problem holdings in the European Growth Trust, the largest of the three funds.

Mr Wheatley was also charged with failing to inform Imro between April and August 1996 of Mr Young's massive holding in unlisted stocks. There is no suggestion of dishonesty on Mr Wheatley's part, nor of personal gain.

Glyn Owen, chief executive of Morgan Grenfell International Funds and Mr Young's immediate superior, received a three-year ban. Graham Kane, the director responsible for unit trust marketing, was suspended for 16 months, while Paul Ebling, a compliance officer, received a two-year suspension.

All four are believed to face bills of about £200,000 each after agreeing to pay Imro's investigation costs and a contribution towards its disciplinary costs.



Three cheers: Andy Bassadone, left, Mogens Tholstrup and Tim Power, right, operations director of Belgo Group

Tholstrup sells Daphne's to Belgo

THREE of London's trendiest restaurants — The Collection, Daphne's and Pasha — have been sold to Belgo Group, headed by Luke Johnson, the co-founder of PizzaExpress, in a £9.3 million deal that nets £5.5 million for Mogens Tholstrup, the Danish-born restaurateur (Jon Ashworth writes).

Mr Tholstrup, 37, who bought Daphne's from the receivers in 1993 and has made The Collection one of South Kensington's most fashionable haunts, is taking £2.5 million in cash, with the rest in shares in Belgo.

Halifax steps up Sunday service

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

BANKS moved a step closer to full Sunday trading yesterday as Halifax announced it was switching to a permanent seven-day-a-week service in 100 branches.

The branches will be open from 11am to 3pm and will offer a full range of products and services to customers. The bank is also opening 200 branches all day on Saturdays. It already has 650 branches that open on Saturday mornings.

The move follows a successful pilot scheme launched two months ago. Halifax claimed that both customers and staff had welcomed the extension in opening hours.

The Sunday service had been particularly popular with borrowers as the house buying season got under way. However, the bank expects savers' interest to pick up as Christmas approaches.

Rivals said they would keep a "watching brief" on the demand for Sunday opening but considered extending hours on Saturdays a greater priority.

Greenbury dual role reviewed

MARKS & SPENCER has raised the prospect of splitting Sir Richard Greenbury's roles as chairman and chief executive (Sarah Cunningham writes).

FA close to £20m One-2-One deal

By JASON NISSÉ

THE Football Association is close to securing one of the largest team sponsorship deals ever concluded in sport with a £20 million contract to back the England football team after the World Cup.

One-2-One, the mobile-phone group, is understood to be in talks to take over from Green Flag, the roadside recovery company, as the main team sponsor. The cost of the sponsorship has soared from the £1 million a year that Green Flag was paying to nearly £20 million for a four-year deal.

Record \$550m bonus for Wang at CA

FROM OLIVER AUGUST
IN NEW YORK

CHARLES WANG, the chairman of Computer Associates (CA), stands to receive a windfall of \$550 million (£330 million) worth of shares today.

The one-off bonus ranks among the highest made to a private individual in America. Mr Wang has presided over a tenfold increase in CA's share price since 1994 and Wall Street analysts believe the shares would have risen even more but for a failed hostile \$10 billion bid for

Computer Science Corporation earlier this year. He received a share option package in 1995 when CA shares were worth around \$20. The options can be exercised when the price has stayed above \$55 for 60 days in one year. That point is expected to come at the close of the Nasdaq market today.

Mr Wang will automatically be awarded the block of shares on the 60th day, and could sell them immediately. The company is taking a \$1 billion charge to pay for its share option programme that also gives large windfalls for other senior executives. Sanjay Kumar, the CA president, will receive \$278 million and Russell Artzt, an executive vice president, \$92 million.

Wall Street yesterday applauded Mr Wang's windfall. Melissa Eisenstat, at CIBC Oppenheimer, said: "Computer Associates has made a ton of money for investors and it is justified. While the award is certainly rich for three executives, the tenfold appreciation in the stock over the last five years has created a lot of wealth for shareholders also."



Wang: tenfold rise in price

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Raisman must explain himself



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

As allegations of malpractice gathered over British Biotech, the company took a predictable course. It called for the lawyers and commissioned a report into the matters. When the allegations, principally of misleading the markets and insider share dealing by directors, refused to die, British Biotech waved the report by Cameron McKenna and insisted that the company had been given the all clear.

When *The Times* saw the lawyers' report, we came to a rather different conclusion. That is why we felt that shareholders should be made aware of the contents. That is also why British Biotech fought to stop us publishing and rushed to the courts for an injunction.

This week, the company produced its own report into what has been going on and, not entirely surprisingly, came to the conclusion that everyone had acted honourably. The fact that chief executive Keith McCullagh was standing down, with no replacement in line, was not to be read as any condemnation of his role in the running of the business, quite the contrary.

If the company had hoped this would be the end of the affair, it was being naive. For the Cameron McKenna report reveals damaging insights into the share dealing affair and the way that

information was suppressed. That is why British Biotech was anxious to prevent its publication and why we have fought, ultimately successfully, to bring it into the open. After weeks of being silenced, yesterday we won the courtroom's decision that the injunction which had stopped us printing should be lifted. The reasons we fought so hard should be apparent today.

British Biotech has tried to mislead shareholders too often. It did so over the prospects for its drugs. It did so by indicating that independent lawyers had found nothing disquieting. Even this week, it tried to do so by saying that nothing unworldly had taken place. This when the drug testing authorities are deeply concerned over statements that the company has made, when the SEC in the United States is investigating, and when the Stock Exchange in London is re-examining the directors' fortuitous share sales.

The chief executive is now leaving, albeit still being hailed as the most honourable of men, but that is not enough. The chairman of British Biotech is a man with

ample experience of public companies and the capacity to keep a difficult and domineering chief executive in check, should he so wish. John Raisman, a former chairman of Shell UK, must be held to account.

City watchdog bares its teeth

The penalties inflicted on a quartet of former Morgan Grenfell directors should serve to put the frighteners on many in the fund management business. No doubt that was partly Imro's intention in dealing so draconianly with the culprits. Even those who have enjoyed many fat years will find being effectively barred from working for several years takes its toll on the family finances.

Michael Wheatley, once

deemed to be the essence of what a proper compliance director should be, is now defrocked, permanently restricted from holding a compliance position again. And unlike the judiciary, the indications are that when Imro says life, it means life.

These men cannot claim total innocence. They were all with Morgan Grenfell Asset Management when Peter Young was having a fine time making record, but sadly fictitious, returns on what was thought to be the group's flagship fund.

Peter Young has yet to appear before Imro or any other regulatory authorities, although the Serious Fraud Office is not uninterested in a wheeze which eventually left MG having to find around £200 million to compensate investors who had been effectively defrauded by Mr Young's imaginative exploits.

It was the task of Imro to decide who should carry the can for the episode. The four who were sentenced yesterday, and Keith Percy, whose case has yet to be decided, have all been ditched by their former employer, which indicates that Morgan Grenfell did not see them as blameless in the affair. But their sins were sins of omission rather than commission. They were duped by the ingenious fund manager and failed to realise that the wondrous returns he was nocking up, and the bonuses that were built on them, had no substance.

Yet there were warning signs. When it became apparent that Young's fund was almost one third invested in unlisted securities, they should have panicked rather more than they did. He was told to reduce the level, but there seems to have been little

will to probe more deeply into what he was doing, nor to alert the regulator to the irregularities. Even compliance officers may sometimes feel that things can be righted without any need to bother the authorities. Imro does not like to be ignored.

Singh a song of millions

If the City was given to reflecting on its mistakes, it might consider the money that could have been made if New Look had been allowed to float four years ago.

Since 1994, sales have leapt from £85.6 million to £138 million while operating profits have risen in line, from £10 million to £39.2 million. Away from the public company spotlight, it has turned itself into the latest-growing big women's wear retailer in the UK. Barclays Private Equity and PPM Ventures struck a good deal when, in 1995, they bought 75 per cent of the business from the family of founder Tom Singh for £170 million. New Look admits it presented

itself badly the first time round. This time there is no danger of that, with the smooth talking Howard Dyer as chairman and Jim Hodgkinson, late of B&Q, in the chief executive's seat. With the shares set for an undemanding p/e, there seems little not to recommend this time. The only caveat in the long term would be the company's growth ambitions. It already has 440 stores and plans up to 150 more. This would outstrip even Dorothy Perkins which has 490 stores. With the expansion into France and Germany now on hold, growth will be increasingly hard to find. Competition at home could get tougher if Philip Green decides to tilt his Mark One business straight at New Look. Those venture capitalists got in at the right time.

A Tence time

TENCEL, once seen as the Courtaulds wonder fabric, now has the whiff of Crimble about it. If Akzo's bid succeeds, the Tencel plants could be early victims. It is a sad case of "never mind the feel, what about the marketing?". A clever company might have done for Tencel what Du Pont did for Lycra, and made it into a "must have". But now not even Dame Edna Everage will feel the same gratitude to Courtaulds as she does to Dr Crimp.

National Power thwarted in bid for US expansion

By CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

STRONG competition in the US electricity market is frustrating National Power's attempt to build up a significant position across the Atlantic.

The UK's second largest electricity generator wants to establish a 4,000 megawatt portfolio in America but is being outbid in a scramble for assets as the US deregulates its electricity industry.

Keith Henry, chief executive, said that the company had been repeatedly outbid in its attempt to buy plant. "We have been 40 per cent light on price. Packages of assets are going for a premium. We cannot make the numbers work," he explained.

Mr Henry said that National Power was trading at a lower price-earnings ratio than US rivals who were bidding high prices.

The British generator's difficulties in buying electricity assets in the United States contrast with huge American

investments in Britain's electricity industry. National Power has resorted to greenfield investments and hopes to build two 500 megawatt plants in New England to add to its 1,500 megawatt portfolio.

Yesterday, the company announced a \$250 million investment in new coal and gas-fired power stations in China as it revealed a slide in pre-tax profits from £740 million to £720 million. The decline reflected lower volumes as a result of plant sales and increased competition.

National Power expects to suffer a £130 million reduction in margin as a result of the ending of coal-backed sales contracts. Mr Henry said that British suppliers had been awarded some 80 per cent of the company's annual coal requirement and urged the Government to make a decision on whether the moratorium on gas power stations is to continue. He said: "They need

to move quickly or they will make a decision by default. There is a lot of logic in using a resource that we can control rather than letting it disappear." National Power has a major commitment to coal-fired power generation with the 4,000 megawatt Drax and 1,500 Aberthaw stations.

Mr Henry said that National Power planned to spend £600 million a year on overseas expansion. The utility has invested £1.3 billion in building up a foreign generating portfolio which last year produced profits of £130 million. The company is paying a full-year dividend of 27p, up 8 per cent. Roger Whitcomb, finance director, said it would maintain a progressive dividend despite the fall in earnings. He said that dividend cover could fall to 1.5 times from the current level of 1.8 times.

Tempus, page 30

Courtaulds feels squeeze from Tencel

By CARL MORTISHED

LOSSES from Tencel, the wonder fabric, have put a squeeze on profits at Courtaulds, the chemicals group that recently agreed a £1.8 billion offer from Akzo Nobel (see Commentary, this page).

The pain in the fibres business caused a 22 per cent decline in the pre-tax profits of the Courtaulds group last

year and could hamper efforts by PPG, the American coatings group, to mount a rival bid at a higher price for the chemicals company.

The rival consortium, made up of PPG and Donaldson Lufkin Jenrette, the American investment bank, is likely to come under pressure from the Takeover Panel if it fails to make up its mind by next week.

The Courtaulds share price is cur-

rently at a 20p premium to the Akzo offer of 450p per share. Both Akzo and PPG will have received early notice of the poor results and Courtaulds is likely to lobby soon for a decision from the Americans, arguing that further delay could lead to market confusion.

Profits in Courtaulds's coatings and sealants division were flat at £84 million but gained 12 per cent in constant currencies, while polymer

products gained 16 per cent to £22 million. Fibres fell from £65 million to £51 million because of the losses in Tencel and a breakeven result from viscose which still suffers from severe overcapacity.

Courtaulds is not declaring a final dividend but should the Akzo bid fail to be completed, the company intends to maintain the end-of-year payout at 11.95p a share.



Michael Green hopes for an early licence renewal

Carlton TV shrugs off sales drop

By RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

CARLTON COMMUNICATIONS, the media and television services group, shrugged off a sharp drop in sales in its products division and the costs of digital television to lift pre-tax profits 8 per cent to £172 million in the six months to March 31.

Carlton shares rose 23p to 517.4p as Michael Green, the chairman, spoke of "good progress" on plans to build its television business and to expand Technicolor's film and video operations.

Mr Green said Carlton would submit business plans to the Independent Television Commission (ITC) soon, seeking early renewal of its licences next January to try to reduce the amount of special broadcasting tax it pays. Last year the tax was £114.7 million.

Total revenues rose to £920 million from £896 million. Operating profit was marginally down at £157.1 million and basic earnings before digital costs increased 10.2 per cent to 18.3p a share. The dividend rises 10 per cent to 5.4p a share.

Tempus, page 30

Tesco director's golden hello

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

TESCO, the supermarkets group, made a one-off payment of £170,000 to Andrew Higginson, its finance director, when he joined from Burton Group last November.

In total, Mr Higginson, who left Burton ahead of its demerger, was paid £265,000 for just over two months' work, according to the Tesco's annual report. He was also granted 137,994 options.

The report also shows that Terry Leahy, in his first year

as chief executive, saw his salary rise from £485,000 to £539,000. His total pay package rose to £798,000 compared with £765,000 a year earlier.

This still looks relatively modest compared with the final full year's pay package of Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, who retired as chairman last June and who Mr Leahy effectively replaced. For 1996-97 Lord MacLaurin received £1.18 million. For the three months he still worked

at the company in 1997-98, he was paid £259,000.

David Reid, deputy chairman and Mr Higginson's predecessor, was the second-highest-paid executive, with a salary of £488,000 and total pay of £743,000. He is also in line to realise options worth £903,000 this year. He already owns 404,031 shares, worth about £2 million. Mr Leahy owns about £1.76 million worth of shares and stands to realise £125,000 in options this year.



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editing and copying audio just as quick and easy. The HP SureStore CD-Writer Plus is a new generation of re-writable drive. It means you can delete or replace files on CD just like a floppy – in fact it's the equivalent of up to 450 floppies! HP offers the complete solution with drive, software as well as a blank HP re-writable CD in the box.

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- Photoscan Organizer
- Adaptec Easy CD Audio
- Adaptec Easy CD Creator
- Adaptec Direct CD
- JetFax
- Norton AntiVirus



STOCK MARKET



Stock Market Writer
of the Year

Misys rewarded by its promotion to top 100

THE champagne corks were popping at Misys last night after it became the first information and technology specialist to become a constituent of the FTSE 100 index.

The move had been anticipated after the company narrowly missed out to Compass, the independent catering services group, in the last quarterly reshuffle of constituents. This time there was no mistake and the heavyweight shares responded with a leap of 220p to £35.70 where the computer software specialist boasts a price tag of £4 billion.

Misys is to replace Energy Group, down 102p to 830p, which has just been acquired by the US energy group Texas Utilities. Misys's place in the FTSE 250 index will be taken by Cox Insurance Holdings, 55p better at 493p.

Five years ago Misys was trading about the 500p level and achieved pre-tax profits of £15 million. Last year it reported a surplus of £62.5 million. The rest of the equity market saw earlier gains halved with the FTSE 100 finishing back above the 5,900 level with a rise of 29.6 to 5,907.4. Another positive start to trading on Wall Street appeared to be ignored in spite of the decision by the Fed not to raise US interest rates. Instead investors chose to focus on today's retail sales, which are not expected to make good reading. Turnover reached 963 million shares.

Schroders has joined the growing band of brokers claiming that shares of Lloyds TSB, up another 27p to 891p, have been overvalued. Earlier this week, Morgan Stanley, the US securities house, pointed out that the price has fallen from the £10.75 level since mid-April, leaving them undervalued.

HSBC dropped 14p to £16.49 after the bank's own securities arm downgraded its recommendation from "buy" to "hold". Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, is also reckoned to have downgraded its profits forecast for the current year and next.

Elsewhere in the banking sector, selective support lifted Abbey National a further 38p to £11.03. Bank of Scotland 28p to 728p. Royal Bank of Scotland 22p to £10.13 and Standard Chartered 12p to 799p.

J Salansbury dropped 13p to 301p despite the positive response given to the sale of its



Bang on: Jim Bloom, chairman of Cranswick, the sausage maker, who saw a 34p rise in the company's share price

stake in Giant Foods, the US food retailer for £375 million. BT Alex Brown, the broker, has given the shares an "underperform" rating.

Iceberg, the frozen food retailer, firmed 2p to 240p ahead of today's annual meeting. It also coincides with a two-day tour of the group's operations by brokers. It was the first day of

trading on AIM for Ambient Media Corporation after a placing of shares at 90p by Charles Stanley, the broker. After briefly touching a peak for the day of 102p, the price eventually settled at 92p.

Over on the big board, Eskom Properties got off to a steady start after being placed at 220p. The price touched a peak of 227p before

closing at 225p, with 704,185 shares changing hands.

The useful growth in profits last year at Cranswick was rewarded with a rise 34p to 307p. Jim Bloom, chairman, has also forecast a sizzling start to the current year for the sausage maker.

Robert Walters continued to make headway with a rise of 25p to 554p. Killick & Co, the private client broker, has thrown its weight behind the shares after receiving an upbeat presentation from the company earlier this week.

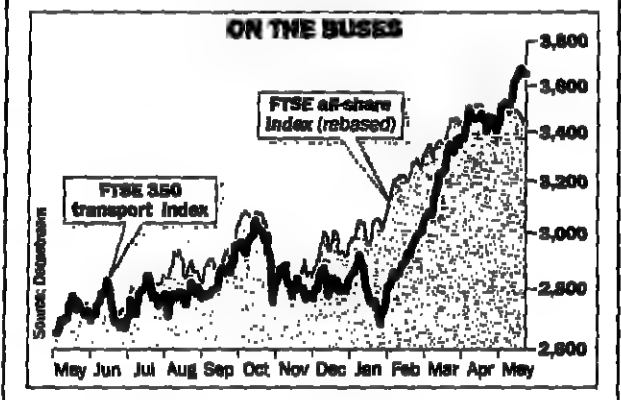
One of the biggest gains on the day was seen in Desire Petroleum, up 96p to 305p. It seems near neighbour Annerad Hess may be about to strike it rich at one of its offshore sights in the Falkland Islands.

News of "static" growth in sales at its First Sport shops left Blacks Leisure 12p down at 388p. It also had an adverse effect on the sector leader JJB Sports, down 16p to 528p. The JJB share price has now fallen from a peak of 822p this year amid worries that sales have peaked.

A warning of increased losses left GBE International nursing a loss of 34p, or 28 per cent, at 94p. The new management team has reviewed the business and says it will show a greater loss for last year than the market is braced for. The finance director has also resigned.

News of a bid approach lifted UFF Group 20p to 105p, valuing the automotive parts group at almost £40 million.

THE FTSE 100 index closed at 5,907.4, up 29.6 from 5,877.8. The index is up 1.1 per cent for the year. The FTSE 250 index closed at 1,103.1, up 1.1 per cent for the year. The FTSE 100 index is up 1.1 per cent for the year. The FTSE 250 index is up 1.1 per cent for the year.



THE bus and rail operators moved into top gear while waiting for the Government's White Paper on transport. Leading the way higher was bus operator FirstGroup, 18p better at 427p, with Stagecoach adding 31p to £12.66. Metroline 27p to 259p. Arriva 6p to 445p. GoAhead Group 6p to 698p. National Express 22p to £10.79 and Railtrack 18p to £11.82.

John Prescott, Secretary of State for Transport, Environment and the Regions, is expected to put pressure on motorists to give up their cars. Richard

Hannah, analyst at BT Alex Brown, the broker, reckons measures might include above inflation increases in both car and fuel tax. Road tolls are another possible option.

"The bus companies are depending on what happens in the White Paper. The worse-case scenario is if he takes no action at all," said Mr Hannah.

Motorists will need a lot of persuading and the infrastructure could not cope. "It is a five-year game plan. Let's hope Mr Prescott doesn't let us down," said Mr Hannah.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 9072.09 (+17.44)
S&P Composite 1109.34 (+0.18)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 15652.95 (+101.30)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 9549.18 (+102.07)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index 1194.20 (+16.80)

Sydney:
All Ordinaries 2723.2 (+18.8)

Frankfurt:
DAX 5510.98 (+122.08)

Singapore:
Straits 1273.78 (+1.84)

Brussels:
General 19177.28 (+246.36)

Paris:
CAC-40 4047.92 (+67.08)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 1588.40 (+10.60)

London:
FTSE 100 5907.4 (+29.6)
FTSE 250 1103.1 (+1.1)
FTSE 1000 3971.6 (+1.3)
FTSE Europe 100 2809.9 (+15.6)
FTSE All-Share 2808.79 (+14.17)
FTSE Non Financial 2845.2 (+15.15)
FTSE Financial 141.62 (+0.40)
FTSE Govt Secs 104.25 (+0.33)
Burgundy 64416
SEAC Petroleum 963.30
US\$ 1.6315 (+0.0072)
German Mark 2.8874 (+0.0072)
Exchange Index 103.0 (+0.1)
Bank of England official base rate 4.75%
EBSU 1.4708
EBSR 1.4708
RPI 102.6 (Apr 01) Jan 1987=100
RPI 102.4 (Apr 01) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

AS Airlines 96p +1
Aberdeen City 105
Ambient Media 92p
Ambush Pub Co 235
Astra 36.50 (+0.50)
ATR Red Pnt 8
Baronsmead VCT 2 87p
Captain OM Wats 43p
Close Bros ADM VCT 100
Desire Petroleum 305p +90p
Dimension Res Wns 9p +1
Dimension Resources 2p +1
Do Warran 145
Eskom Properties 225
GRE Red Pnt 8
Inter-Airline 350 +4
JWE Telecom 115
Lombard Africa 86
Maiden 274p
Murray VCT 3 (100) 97p
Taiwan IT GDR 138p
Taylor & Francis 245p -1p
Thomson Travel 192p
Transport Dev 8 35p

RIGHTS ISSUES

Ask Central n/p (350) 97p +15
Avocat Mining n/p (50) 1p
Guinness n/p (10) 12
John Lacey n/p (10) 1p
Magnum Pwr n/p (12) 3p
Nrd Ang Ind (350) 42p
Protein Ind n/p (45) 3 +1

MAJOR CHANGES

RUSSIA:
Eng China Cl 288p (+18p)
Carlton Comm 517p (+23p)
Heimann 470p (+18p)
Next 542p (+21p)
Eagle 731p (+28p)
Netherlands 1975p (+167p)
Greencore 340p (+10p)

FALLS:

Ranger 388p (-25p)
Cain Energy 312p (-20p)
Jardine Math 212p (-13p)
Delphi 730p (-23p)
CRH 918p (-13p)

Closing Prices Page 36

TEMPUS

The future is Green

MICHAEL GREEN'S Carlton Communications is not the only company to make an art form of holding a line back from the analysts so that profits can be announced that are just a little shinier than expected. Carlton has lots of subtleties to play with. The precise flow of programme commissions from the ITV network is always a problematical matter.

The results from the products division, featuring companies such as Quantel, the digital editing and special effects group, were predictably held back because of the strength of sterling and turmoil in Far East markets. This was evened up with the help of big video releases of Hercules, LA Confidential, Peace-maker and The Full Monty. Television was stable with marginal increases in revenue.

As an investment — and many think Carlton shares are far too high — there are

two significant questions. The first is: will Carlton get a significant reduction in the £11.7 million in special broadcasting taxes through the review and relicensing process just about to begin? The answer is yes, although Carlton will try to hold on to its £2,000 a year Central licence as long as possible before a review.

A much bigger question is digital terrestrial television. Green is certain it will be a huge success and Carlton has a 50 per cent stake in the main commercial operator. If he is right it could be a real bonanza over time.

But if digital terrestrial should be very slow to take off or fail in the face of competition from satellite, Green would be in a tricky position. With the launch due in the first week of November, now is the time to start placing bets on whether Carlton is really overvalued.

Blacks Leisure

OFFICIAL wisdom from the City tells us that sports stocks have had their day. Profits warnings from Nike, and Cobra's fall into receivership, have led many observers to fear that sportswear, as fashionwear, is a fad which is fast fast wearing off.

Sure enough, Blacks Leisure results do nothing to contradict this directly. First Sport, its fashion chain, has seen its underlying sales growth grind to a halt in recent weeks amid stiff market conditions.

But the company's current market rating — 11.9 times forecast earnings — suggests that Blacks will live or die depending on the success of its First Sport branches.

Yesterday's trading update demonstrates why this is not so. Blacks has three formats, and its Outdoor and Active

Land Secs

WHEN looking at Land Securities, Britain's biggest property company, it is as if you are looking at a fair share of ducks and divers, is one for the defensive side of a portfolio. Those who say the property sector is at the top end of the cycle should remember that all the way through the late 1980s and early 1990s property slump Land Securities steadily increased its dividend.

The trend was extended yesterday, but more importantly the outlook suggests that if property hits the buffers again Land Secs will be able to continue pleasing investors with its dividend reliability.

A plan to spend £1 billion on developing properties may not sound terribly cautious but investors can be confident that Land Secs has identified good projects and that it will avoid making itself vulnerable to downturns by overspending the balance sheet. Why should it

Nat Power

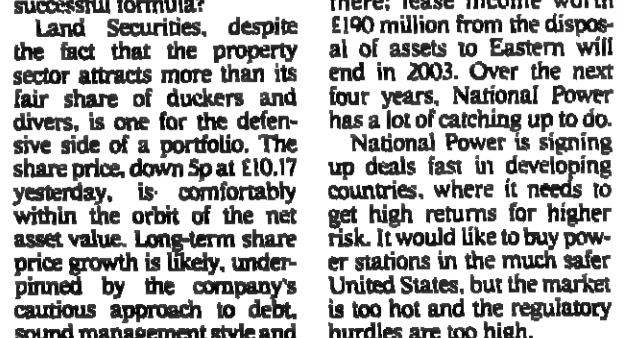
NATIONAL POWER cannot spend money fast enough in its dash to buy power stations overseas. This is hardly surprising: the utility has a problem. Its earnings from the UK are falling, squeezed by the regulator-imposed sale of assets, the introduction of new coal contracts and the gradual decline of electricity prices in an oversupplied market. Earnings will fall this year

but the roi does not stop there: lease income worth £190 million from the disposal of assets to Eastern will end in 2003. Over the next four years, National Power has a lot of catching up to do.

National Power is signing up deals fast in developing countries, where it needs to get high returns for higher risk. It would like to buy power stations in the much safer United States, but the market is too hot and the regulatory hurdles are too high.

National Power cannot avoid bidding for hot properties in a crowded market, but its rival British Energy finds itself in a contrary position. It, too, is on the prowl for Stateside, but instead is bidding for heavily depreciated nuclear assets that almost no one wants to own. Being a major player in an industry with few friends has its advantages. Not only is British Energy increasing its share of the UK electricity market but it has the opportunity to buy cheaply abroad. Accumulate.

OUT OF SHAPE



COMMODITIES

LIFFE

May 1111.10 Jun 1215.10
Jul 1134.10 Sep 1224.10
Oct 1151.10 Dec 1181.10
Mar 1187.10 May 1217.10
Vol: 100,000

ROBUSTA COFFEES (lb)

May 120.10 Jun 120.10
Jul 120.10 Sep 120.10
Oct 120.10 Dec 120.10
Mar 120.10 May 120.10
Vol: 100,000

WHITE SUGAR (lb)

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Vol: 100,000

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

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Vol: 100,000

CRUDE OILS (bbl)

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SPOT CIP NW Europe (prompt delivery)

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LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

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LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

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George Sivell looks at the fallout from the South-East Asian economic crisis

Leading Japanese traders warn on outlook

JAPAN'S top general trading companies warned the market that their business climate would remain cloudy this year because of a long-running economic stagnation at home and because of the financial and political woes across Asia.

The nation's six biggest trading houses, known as *sogoshosha*, handle a wide variety of goods and services ranging from noodles to missiles. They said recent political unrest in Indonesia had made them particularly cautious.

The six trading houses, Sumitomo Corp, Itochu Corp, Marubeni Corp, Mitsubishi Corp, Nissui, and Nissho Iwai Corp, had a total of 690.7 billion yen (\$3.1 billion) of loans, investments and guarantees in Indonesia as of March 31. They mostly forecast their profits rising only marginally or even falling during the present business year.

The six companies, meanwhile, had a total of 1.16 trillion yen worth of such commitments in five South-East Asian countries: Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and South Korea.

In the past business year, which ended on March 31, the trading houses posted a gloomy set of results beset with losses on valuations of shareholdings and one-off financial restructuring charges.

Muneo Shigematsu, managing director of Sumitomo Corp, said: "In 1997-98, the effect of the Asian crisis was felt in the latter half of the year, but it will take its toll throughout this business year."

Mr Shigematsu said that the Asian crisis — which was reignited by recent political unrest in Indonesia — would eat into the company's operating profit by some four to five billion yen.

Of the six firms, Nissho Iwai alone remained a little confident, saying its business in Indonesia mainly focused on exporting goods to Japan.

Nissho said: "We believe Indonesia will increase exports to obtain foreign currencies, so that the impact will be limited."

Toyota and Honda accelerate as Nissan seeks to avoid stalling

TOYOTA and Honda earned record profits in the past financial year, but Nissan has set out a sweeping package of cuts and rationalisations in an effort to maintain financial health.

Toyota Motor Corp said its latest business year was helped by a weak yen and strength in the American market, but added that profits were expected to slip in the current year.

The company is Japan's biggest carmaker and said consolidated net profits in the year to March 31 grew 17.7 per cent to a record 454.35 billion yen (\$2 billion).

By contrast, Nissan Motor Co, Japan's second-biggest carmaker, announced that it had revised down its earlier earnings estimate, and now predicts that it will post a consolidated net loss, against its earlier estimate of a profit of 16 billion yen. In the previous year Nissan reported profits for the first time in five years.

Toyota said that last year its profits before tax rose slightly to 625.64 billion yen. In the current year profits before tax were expected to fall 13.7 per cent to 540 billion yen.

Analysts said that Toyota's profits this year would be hit by sluggish sales at home and economic difficulties in South-East Asia, including Indonesia, where Toyota has a large car-producing joint venture and is the top-selling brand.

Yoshikazu Hanawa, president of Nissan Motor, meanwhile, confirmed that the

company would freeze new overseas projects and focus on America. He also said that the company would reduce the number of its basic car models from 25 to 14 by the year 2000-01 and to ten in 2002-03.

In America Nissan is to restructure its operations and cut car production costs. The company also flagged up the disposal of some of its securities and property holdings. Nissan aims to be profitable on total global sales of 2.7 million vehicles, it said.

In Asia there will be a freeze on new projects at Nissan for the time being, and business in the region will be developed with a medium to long-term focus on Thailand and Taiwan. The company aims to cut overall production costs by 400 billion yen by the year to March 2001.

Honda, meanwhile, reported record results for the past year and expects another record-breaking performance in the current year on the back of brisk American sales. Honda, Japan's number three carmaker, raised net profits by 18 per cent to 260.6 billion yen (\$1.2 billion) in the year to March.

The company expects profits to rise 3.6 per cent in the current 1998-99 fiscal year to 270 billion yen as it continues to enjoy strong sales of its Accord model in America.

Honda said that it expected its domestic vehicle sales in the current business year to climb 3 per cent from the previous year to 780,000 units, and its overseas vehicle sales to increase by 3.4 per cent to 1.64 million units.



Yoshikazu Hanawa yesterday unveiled a sweeping package of cuts at Nissan

Developers face squeeze as HK property price war intensifies

HONG KONG'S big property developers are squeezing their margins close to the limit in a price war that is forcing analysts to downgrade their earnings forecasts.

Cheung Kong (Holdings) and Sun Hung Kai Properties shocked the market this week by drastically reducing apartment prices in Tsing Yi, in the New Territories, in an effort to shore up sales.

"It's a bloodbath," said Henry Kwong, analyst at Merrill Lynch. "I don't think it makes a lot of commercial sense for these two big boys to be undercutting each other."

Cheung Kong said on Monday it would launch a first batch of flats at its Terra Verde residential development, built above the Tsing Yi railway station, at an average price of about HK\$4,147 (\$539) per sq ft. The market had expected the flats to be priced at about HK\$4,500 per sq ft.

Sun Hung Kai Properties retaliated by slashing prices at its Mount Haven development in Tsing Yi to HK\$3,750 a sq ft, down from the HK\$4,280 asked for a first batch of 168 flats in April.

Yesterday, Henderson Land Development said it would offer flats at its Dawn View development in Fanling, in the New Territories, for HK\$2,811 per sq ft.

"Prices are close to development costs. There is not too much room for developers to go down," said Herbert Lau, an analyst at Vickers Ballas.

Prices have fallen by 40 per cent from last year's peaks and Mr Lau said he was slashing his earnings forecasts for property developers by about 5 per cent for 1998 and 8 to 10 per cent for 1999. Lau believes the sector will report a drop of about 10 to 15 per cent in 1998 earnings and a further drop of up to 15 per cent in 1999.

Other developers may be forced to join in, unable to delay sales of properties as they meet debt repayment deadlines, some analysts said.

"Even if they make a loss, they may sell the units because

interest burdens are heavy," said Patrick Yiu at Dharmala Securities. "I think prices will be further reduced."

But Andrew Taylor, property analyst at Paribas Asia Equity, said other developers would be foolish to step in. "These are the three biggest players and anyone else who tries to play this game is going to get very badly burnt."

Mr Taylor said he expected Henderson Land to report a 26 per cent drop in net profits for 1998 to about HK\$7.2 billion. "Henderson is fairly indicative of the lot," he said.

Malaysia heads into recession

MALAYSIA'S economy, struggling in Asia's regional financial crisis, is heading towards recession because an austerity drive to slow growth is beginning to overshoot targets.

Economists said that financially troubled companies, falling industrial production, a smaller than expected recovery in exports and declining domestic demand were all squeezing the Malaysian economy.

Last week the Government reported that industrial production fell 1.1 per cent in the first quarter of the year compared with the year-ago period. The manufacturing sector accounts for 35 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) and services 45 per cent.

After the latest industrial production numbers were released, some research houses forecast a 1-3 per cent contraction in GDP this year, down from a consensus forecast of 0.8 per cent growth last month.

The Government has forecast GDP growth of 2.3 per cent after two downward revisions from the original projection of 7 per cent. GDP expanded by 7.6 per cent last year. "It is just the beginning of a steep downturn in the economy," said one analyst.

Hyundai to make 8,000 redundant

HYUNDAI MOTOR, South Korea's largest carmaker, plans to lay off more than 8,000 workers, triggering an immediate union threat of strikes to block the manoeuvre.

The company aims to shed 8,189 workers, 18 per cent of its workforce, to maintain competitiveness. Hyundai said the process would begin in June and be completed by the end of the year and that it would notify the Labour Ministry of the plan soon.

But leaders of the company's mili-

tary labour union balked at the plan and said workers may take strike action unless it was repealed.

The union said: "We are considering strikes as countermeasures. We believe it is a tactic [by the company] to induce more volunteer retirees by creating an atmosphere of extreme insecurity."

Last month Hyundai Motor said it had lowered its vehicle production target for this year to 900,000 units from an earlier 1.5 million units, but

would almost certainly have to lower the target further.

Earlier in April the company said it needed to cut its payroll by about 30 per cent to remain competitive. The Government has told companies to speed up voluntary restructuring projects to improve their competitiveness as part of nationwide efforts to overcome its economic crisis.

A plunge in the value of the won, the South Korean currency, against the dollar forced the country to accept a

record-breaking \$58.35 billion (\$5.8 billion) bailout package led by the International Monetary Fund in December. It was a precondition of IMF help for the world's eleventh-largest economy that the country end its job-for-life attitude to employment.

Union members across the country have vowed to fight against possible massive layoffs, saying that companies were resorting to redundancies while neglecting calls for improvement in their management practices.

ACCOUNTANCY

Together we can change the world

Frank Harding on IFAC's role in helping developing nations

In a speech to the World Congress of Accountants in October, the World Bank President James Wolfensohn challenged the international accounting profession to do more to bolster its capabilities and capacity in developing nations and those whose economies are in transition. It is a challenge that the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), which represents professional groups in more than 100 countries, accepts.

While I acknowledge that the accounting profession has a role to play in enhancing the availability of competent providers of accounting services, the task is large and multifaceted. We must harness the resources that IFAC, its member bodies and their members — accountants around the world — can provide with those of the international development agencies in a co-ordinated, complementary manner that best serves the public interest.

The development agencies have contacts with governments and government agencies. They have funds, some expertise and experience. While the profession has limited government contacts, it has contacts with those already working in the field and, above all, a broad range of available expertise and experience.

The international agencies, eg. the IMF and the EU,

already fund projects to develop and enhance the availability of accountancy services.

The projects are undertaken by, among others, consultants from IFAC's member bodies and the major accounting and consulting firms. Frequently they are unaware of similar projects under way, sometimes in the same country. Often the wheel is reinvented when a standard approach and project could be used.

We have to stop this waste. We must ensure that those resources are co-ordinated and used wisely. That said, we must recognise that a "one size fits all" approach will not yield the desired results. We must work together in order to develop strategies that best serve the needs of individual nations and clusters of nations facing similar issues.

The challenge is daunting. More than 100 countries need some form of assistance and it cannot all be administered at once. At the same time, the urgency is critical. For developing nations, the lack of accountants, accounting systems and government support represent obstacles to growth.

These are a must if these countries are to continue to receive aid from development agencies and attract the investment they so desperately need. Further, enhancing the quality of reporting will lead to lower costs for funds provided by the



Frank Harding seeks to develop accounting services

public and private sectors. While development agencies need to provide funding for accounting initiatives, they can only act if the nations request this assistance.

However, the agencies can pressure governments to upgrade their accounting systems by demanding greater accountability as a proviso for obtaining funds.

IFAC has taken the lead in addressing these issues. It called a meeting in January in Washington of representatives

of the accountancy profession and the international development agencies, including the World Bank and IMF, to discuss our joint interest in developing the capabilities and capacity of accounting and accountants.

The meeting resulted in an acknowledgement that there is need for greater co-ordination among funding organisations, and between agencies and the profession. Specifically, we agreed to set up an International Advisory Forum on

Accountancy Development (IAFAD) to avoid duplication of effort and a waste of resources. IAFAD will commission the development of core documentation to be used when similar projects are required in different countries. The forum will also address issues of co-ordination between the development agencies and the accounting profession. IFAC has already done work on an array of issues including the development of international standards on auditing, a code of professional ethics, a core curriculum for qualification as a professional and sample statutes for accounting bodies. More needs to be done, particularly at a detailed level. What IFAC lacks is the means to ensure that these solutions are adopted in the developing countries.

The forum will, I hope, develop its activities to the extent that it becomes the recipient and co-ordinator of requests for aid and assistance from the countries in need. I am confident that IFAC will be recognised for its role as a catalyst and a key participant in the harnessing of these resources and the provision of co-ordinated and much-needed aid. The accounting profession has a moral duty to meet the social demands that accounting services are available when and where required throughout the world. Together with our partners in the international agencies, we shall fulfil our role.

The author is President of IFAC.

Barriers in bringing members to account

It is a lonely business regulating the accountancy profession. First you have MPs like Austin Mitchell telling you repeatedly that the system is corrupt and simply "chaps regulating chaps". Secondly, you have accountancy bodies, like the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants, repeatedly insisting that it would rather not pay for a system that it is convinced their chaps do not need. Thirdly, you are waiting for the Government to fulfil its election pledge and announce reforms. And fourthly, being an efficient outfit, there are only two of you who make up the organisation.

It is not surprising that it is a lonely business. But the Joint Disciplinary Scheme (JDS), which published its annual report this week, is optimistic. And Chris Dickson, the scheme's executive counsel, is not someone who is going to allow life to get him down. There are currently investigations in progress into BCCI, Maxwell, Astra Holdings, Polly Peck, Wickes and Resort Hotels. That is enough to keep anyone busy.

The majority of those cases date from the last recession, and possibly we are already on the downslide of the next business cycle heading for more corporate scandals. It is not surprising that the public, or more precisely Austin Mitchell, makes a fuss about the time it takes accountants to discipline their own.

In the case of BCCI, it was the Court of Appeal that stopped the investigation in its tracks until everyone else had had their say. In the case of Maxwell, there were so many accounting firms involved that finding one without a conflict of interest was difficult. And, in any case, the lawyers had delayed everything for several years by trying to put that investigation on ice.

As for Polly Peck, there is a legal battle going on to decide whether members of the English ICA who operate in northern Cyprus should co-operate with the investigators or whether local legislation bars them from passing on the relevant documents.

So it is not surprising that it all takes a long time. But there are several things which would help to hasten the process. The first would be greater co-operation from the accountancy firms themselves. When Mr Dickson joined the JDS from the Serious Fraud Office in January he was surprised by the absence of statutory powers. They cannot haul people, or documents, in. "Everything has to come by persuasion," he said.

And, human nature being what it is, that can take time. This is why the Government's slow pace on the proposals for a new profession-wide independent review board is so disheartening. "The new scheme would enable us to exchange information and documents with other regulators, like the Securities and Exchange Commission in America, and that would be of enormous benefit," Mr Dickson said.

The second measure that would speed things up would be better co-operation from overseas accounting firms. The Ferranti case was not necessarily typical. Mr Dickson said, but it did become farcical because of the complications of joint auditors. KPMG in New York refused to allow the JDS team to photocopy the relevant documents or take them to Britain. Instead, they insisted that the team could only make notes. It is such incidents that undermine any idea that global firms are truly global.

Then there is the need for greater investigatory expertise. The Maxwell case was effectively off-limits for any of the Big Six firms, all of whom had conflicts of interest. As the report says: "It proved difficult to identify a firm of sufficient capacity and with relevant expertise which had no conflict of interest arising from other work related to the collapse of Maxwell-related companies. The work of the firm currently providing assistance has taken substantially longer than had been anticipated."

As the Big Six is on the verge of becoming the Big Five, this situation will become worse. "Investigating an audit disaster is something which may be very difficult to do without using the Big Five," said Mr Dickson. In civil litigation both sides involved will have Big Five firms working for them. The conflicts just grow. The answer, as Clark Whitehill beaver away at the Maxwell case, will be for more medium-sized firms to build the expertise.

The final issue that would help the JDS is that of openness. Mr Dickson and Bill Morrison, the chairman of JDS, insist that they want encouragement the opening up of their tribunal proceedings to the public. But their hands are tied because neither the English, nor the Scots ICAs, which fund the JDS, have their own disciplinary proceedings open to public gaze.

That too should come with proposals for the new review board. But for the moment the JDS will have to plough its lonely, though ultimately productive, furrow.



ROBERT BRUCE

Words to the wise

IAN DAVISON paid many tributes when he received the Founding Societies' Award, the profession's version of the Nobel prize, last week. But it was what he said about Leonard Spacek, the man who built Arthur Andersen into an international firm, that showed the Andersen insistence on never being beaten.

Spacek was once so furious with his treatment at the

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

hands of what he saw as the establishment figures in the profession in New York that after the meeting he announced: "If I had had a taste for wood, I would have eaten my way across that table." But even more to Davison's taste was Spacek's method of public speaking. "He spoke in torrents," Davison told his audience, "with every member of the audience urging him on to

find the verb and end the sentence."

That figures

THE annual report and accounts of the Joint Disciplinary Scheme, which means out punishment in cases of accountancy scandal, is suitably forbidding. For a start, its cover is a mass of small groups of numbers. It looks like some-

thing that code-breakers might salivate over. Sadly, the explanation is more prosaic. It seems the designers, knowing JDS was involved with accountants, thought it might like some figures on the front.

Paper chase

DELOITTE & TOUCHE provides an excellent weekly update in the field of Customs

and Excise. In particular it updates clients with VAT decisions and breaking news. But last week clients received more than they bargained for. As this week's cover note says: "We would add our apologies for the problems caused by a technical fault in our fax system which resulted in some of you receiving a large amount of blank sheets of paper." VAT inspectors are braced for huge claims based on the escalating demand for rolls of fax paper.

ROBERT BRUCE

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

مَكْنَا مِنَ الْأُمَا

Equities halve early gains

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

BANKS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

INSURANCE

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

LEISURE & HOTELS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

MEDIA

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

MINING

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

PROPERTY

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

RETAILERS FOOD

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

RETAILERS GENERAL

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

WATER

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

PHARMACEUTICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

SUPPORT SERVICES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

TRANSPORT

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation at:

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

SHORTS (under 5 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

LONGS (over 15 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

UNDATED

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

RETAILERS FOOD

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

RETAILERS GENERAL

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

OTHER FINANCIAL

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

PHARMACEUTICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

SUPPORT SERVICES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

TRANSPORT

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119
120	118	117	119	117	118	119

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation at:

147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
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147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
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147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
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147	142	141	143	141	142	143
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147	142	141	143	141	142	143
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147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
147	142	141	143	141	142	143
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POP
The Verve
play up a storm
in Dublin
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THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE

Chichester
makes a
meal of it

PAGE 39



Bacon brought home in some style

CANNES: Geoff Brown sees a British film about the great painter take the film festival by storm

Last year Cannes celebrated its fiftieth birthday with a collection of films that by and large did not deserve any party hats and champagne. This year things are different. Few of the films in competition have driven the critics to tip up their seats with a bang and make their dash for freedom.

True, some directors have disappointed: Nanu Moretti, who won many hearts five years ago with *Dear Diary*, came a minor cropper with *April*, another film diary full of musings on politics and anguish and pride over the birth of his son, but without its predecessor's universal appeal. But other directors have bounced back smiling. John Boorman was last represented by *Beyond Rangoon* — a better title would have been *Beyond Salvation*. Happily, his new contender, *The General*, is his best film in years: dynamic and funny, with much for an audience to think about. What, above all, do we make of the title character, Martin Cahill, a buccaneering Irish criminal whose buffoonish capers went hand in hand with ruthless violence, and who died in a storm of IRA bullets in 1994?

One moment we laugh as he and his gang outwit authority; the next we cringe as he nails a suspected traitor's hand to the snooker table. Brendan Gleeson's central performance is unforgettable, humanising the monster without taking away any of his fangs. More on this most stimulating film when it opens in London soon. Last year at Cannes the *Spice Girls* were on hand to beat the drum for Cool Britannia. Somehow, Culture Secretary Chris Smith and Film Minister Tom Clarke have not set the flashbulbs going to the same extent.

But British cinema is still out and about. Deep down in the market you can find, if you dare, the latest romp from Michael Winner, *Parting Shots*. Up in the official festival, you can feast eyes and mind on *Love is the Devil*, a film destined to lift John

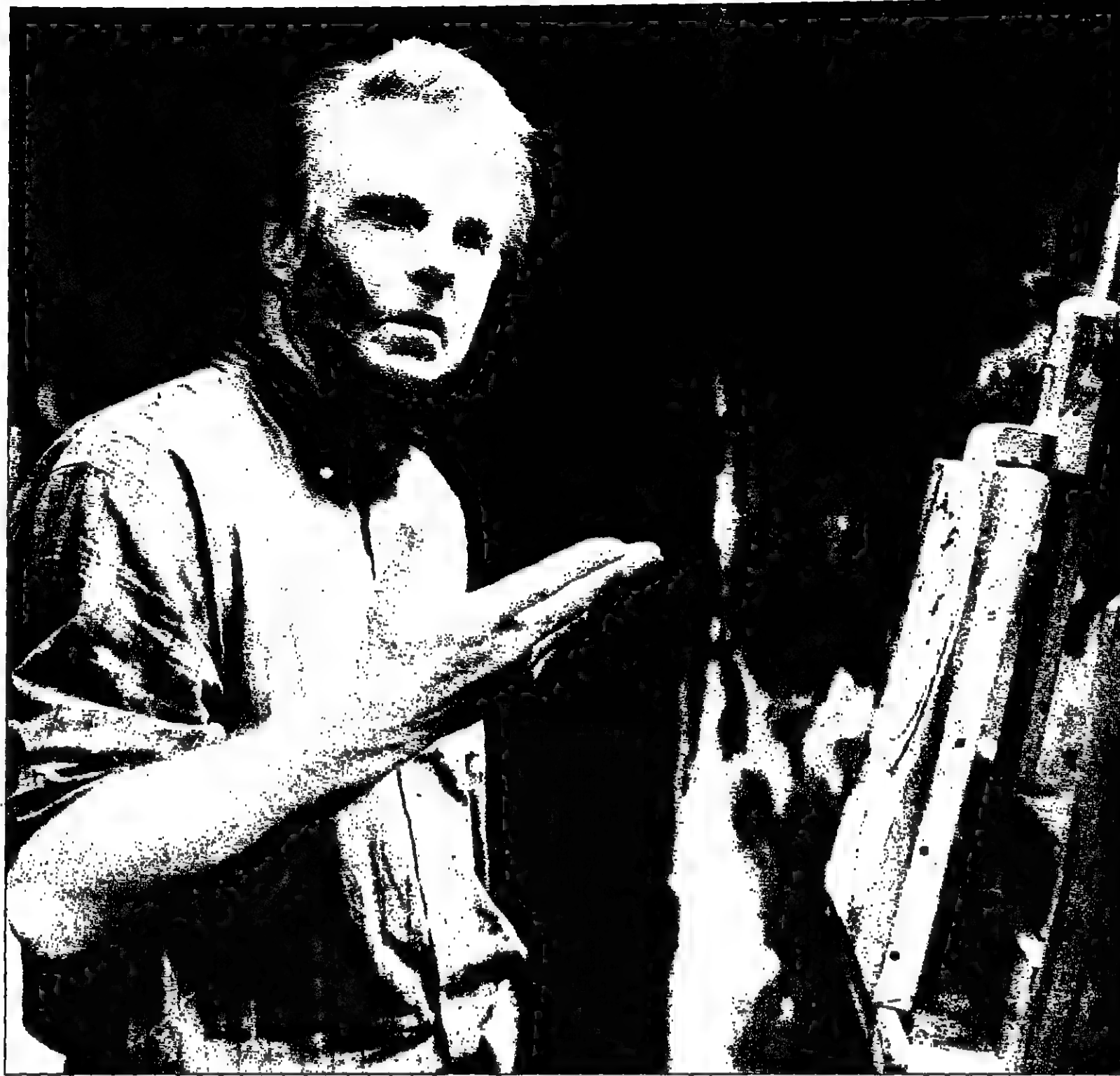
Maybury, its director, up and away from fringe obscurity. "Study for a Portrait of Francis Bacon" is its subtitle. Indeed, this is not the whole story: Bacon's paintings are largely absent, while the narrative concentrates on the 1960s and Bacon's stormy relationship with George Dyer, who came to barge and stayed to be his model and lover.

Derek Jacobi's musical voice helps to make Bacon appear nicer than he probably was, but visually he is the perfect stand-in. The film as a whole finds an admirable balance between Maybury's experimental itch, nourished by years with Derek Jarman, and convey conventional matters like relationships, a story and a specific time and place.

The same festival section, "Un Certain Regard", houses *All the Little Animals*, the directorial debut of Jeremy Thomas, whose portfolio as a producer includes work with Bernardo Bertolucci, David Cronenberg and Nicolas Roeg. His own way with the movie camera proves unexceptional, although there is something daring, I suppose, about making a film that appears to have no identifiable audience.

In this adaptation of Walker Hamilton's novel, Christian Bale plays a simple young adult who escapes from an ogreish stepfather by wandering the west country with John Hurt, burying wildlife killed by cars. Is *Little Animals* a family film for the green at heart? Not simple enough. Something thoughtful for the art houses? Too wet and whimsical. Better luck next time. Jeremy, if there is one.

Luckily other new directors have made a stronger impression. And none more so than Erick Zanca, a 41-year-old Frenchman whose competition entry *The Dream Life of Angels* found more universal favour than the work of France's established directors (less old-fashioned craftsmanship and more substance would certainly have strengthened Claude Miller's *Class Trip*). Zanca, however, found



Derek Jacobi as Francis Bacon in *Love is the Devil*, the film "destined to lift John Maybury, its director, up and away from fringe obscurity"

the perfect balance, keeping his directorial presence quiet and allowing his characters to bloom. They are young, ruthless, barely scraping a living in Lille. Isa is sparky, Marie sullen; and we watch riveted as their friendship rises and falls. Both share the flat of a woman and her daughter confined to hospital after a car crash. The woman dies; the

daughter lingers in a coma. Isa begins to feel a kinship, and sits by her bedside; but Marie just gets eaten up by negativity and a fruitless affair.

Elodie Bouchez and Natacha Régnier make the girls' relationship very credible; and whatever miseries are opened up, the film throbs wonderfully with compassion and understanding.

extremely modest technical resources.

But there are plenty of ideas bouncing around: ideas about creativity, spirituality and death, the borderlines between art and reality, and other Bergman favourites. The main character, too, is familiar: he is Bergman's Uncle Carl, an inventor introduced as a hospital psychiatric patient obsessed with Schubert in the mid-1920s. In the best part of the film he ventures into the provinces with his new creation: a presentation of silent films with actors standing behind the screen, mouthing appropriate dialogue. Fuses blow and start a fire; there is also a ghostly female clown to contend with. Börje Ahlstedt heads a notable cast of Bergman regulars and the director's fans, if not wider audiences, should find quiet rewards if and when the film surfaces in Britain.

Happiness, the new film by Todd Solondz, should certainly reach our screens, although a little trimming would help this 140-minute trawl through the anguish and sexual longings of three New Jersey sisters, friends and neighbours. In *Welcome to the Dollhouse*, Solondz displayed keen insights into a teenager's ugly adolescence. Here he digs deeper and risks upsetting audiences with the blunt comic coverage of private fantasies, masturbation and pseudo-philosophy. A happy film? Far from it. But you keep watching, half embarrassed, half enthralled. So far, this is the film that has kept the critics talking.

A star is reborn

ALIEN RESURRECTION

Fox Pathe, 18, 1997

THE last *Alien* sequel ended with Sigourney Weaver perishing at her own hands. But seeing is not believing so, 200 years later, she is cloned from a blood sample to fight off a new generation of alien beasts. Weaver is a force to reckon with as the lithe, no-nonsense Ripley. Winona Ryder is less effective as the mysterious mechanic in a gang of mercenaries who dock in space with a cargo of frozen humans. French director Jean-Pierre Jeunès provides a novel amount of bizarre humour, although ghoulish spectacle ultimately supplants the early jokes, which is rather a pity. A rental release.

REGENERATION

Fox Pathe, 15, 1997

WELCOME to Craiglockhart Military Hospital in Edinburgh in 1917, where shell-

NEW ON VIDEO

shocked victims of the First World War come under the care of Jonathan Pryce's Dr Rivers, a man increasingly disturbed himself. Among his charges are Siegfried Sassoon (James Wilby), Wilfred Owen (Simon Buncie) and a lad rendered mute by the trenches (Jonny Lee Miller). Gillies Mackinnon's powerful and poignant film haunts the mind with its re-creation of wartime horrors and the legacy they leave. Available to rent.

THE TANGO LESSON

Artificial Eye, PG, 1997

A BRAVE and enticing film from Sally Potter, chronicling her obsession with the tango. She plays herself, as does tango luminary Pablo Veron, who becomes her teacher. For Potter, the tango becomes a way to explore the dynamics of power, and of all love relationships and creative endeavours. The metaphor, though, is never belaboured as the impassioned pair dance away.

THIEVES LIKE US

Warner, 15, 1993

DOOMED lovers and social misfits: we have been here before. But Robert Altman directs with simple intensity and an amused eye, while Keith Carradine and Shelley Duvall seem as natural as the Mississippi locations. New to video.

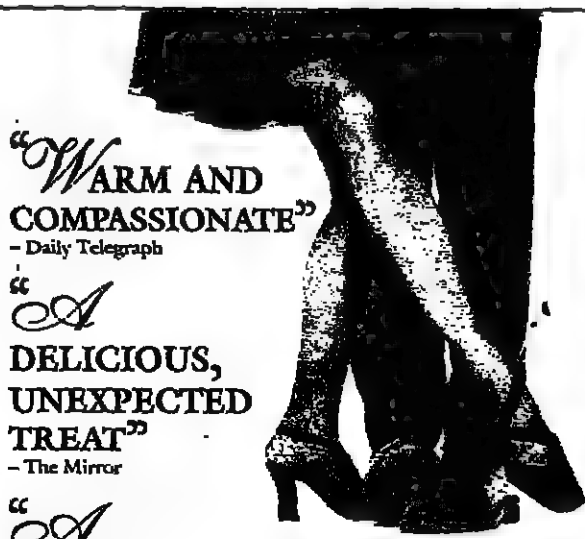
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NEW MOVIES: James Christopher warms to the Hollywood satire *The Real Blonde*

Shiny on top and dark at the roots

At the heart of Tom DiCillo's playful comedy, *The Real Blonde*, there is a cynical truth that cuts to the bone of the movie industry. You can almost feel it as the opening credits pore over a glossy portrait of a nubile, mostly naked, model. Her image suddenly shatters like a pane of glass to reveal a street scene in Manhattan where an elderly black woman has her dog stolen by a tramp. It is this ludicrous gap between image and reality that obsesses Joe, an actor played by Matthew Modine.

Joe cultivates the kind of idealism about "real" acting that makes real people cringe. At 35, a jobbing upmarket waiter without a single meaningful acting credit to his name, Joe is the scourge of all the fakes in the entertainment business. He scorns Bob, his English friend who lands a leading role in a soap opera. He loudly trashes sentimental films in public and pontificates across the breakfast table to his girlfriend Mary (the wonderful Catherine Keener) about how women are exploited. Not only does he seem subtly oblivious to the fact that it is her job as a high-fashion make-up artist that pays most of the rent, but in his heart of hearts he probably wants a piece of this artificial pie as well.

The comedy resides on many levels, but mostly in the fact that DiCillo clearly cherishes Modine's hapless, morally charged hero. On the streets Joe is something of a white knight, nearly getting himself shot when he comes to the aid of a woman. But in the audition room his integrity is snapped into a pile of twigs by a ferocious casting agent. Forced to swallow his morals for the sake of the rent, Joe finds himself bouncing around in a bathing suit on a fake beach with 50 other beefcake extras in a Madonna (note: not a natural blonde) video. Being Joe, however, he thinks he has been hand-picked. The well-worn truth is that in a world obsessed with the artificial, ideals means nothing at all.

The technical ingenuity of DiCillo's film is the way he stylishly cross-stitches Joe's life with those of his peers who are making it, or faking it, as artists, actors and models. The cameo performances are razor sharp: Christopher Lloyd as a camp maître d'; Kathleen Turner as a vampish fashion photographer. But it Modine's Joe provides the spine to the satire of *The Real Blonde*. Maxwell Caulfield's oily Bob is its soul.

nah) routinely humiliates him, while his peroxide girlfriend (Bridgette Wilson) threatens to commit suicide because he won't come home. One feels that Woody Allen, New York's most astute voyeur, would be tempted to overegg the ironies that DiCillo teases from these bedrooms, restaurants and occasionally the street. DiCillo never pushes, even when the pace of his film becomes somewhat mired in failing relationships. It is a real joy to find a director other than Allen who believes the word is mightier than the budget, even if his film could well prove too subtle for major box office takings.

The same cannot be said of *Blues Brothers 2000*, which employs a cast list of Old Testament proportions and whose stunt centrepiece is a car chase that ends in a spectacular haystack of police cars. Ring any sirens? Dan Aykroyd picks up more or less where he left off with the original *Blues Brothers* cult hit of 18 years ago: "on a mission from God" to convert the world. Most of the cast and presumably most of the intended audience for this updated song and dance spectacular were already converted back in 1980.

The big question is who is going to plug the sizeable gap left by the late John Belushi, aka Elwood's stumpy, beer-guzzling sidekick Jake. Step forward John Goodman, Roseanne's slightly heavier half, who squeezes into the familiar black drainpipe suit, pork pie hat and blumen shades to take on the role of Mighty Mack.

It is a shrewd gamble. Goodman pulls much more than his weight as a singer. But, to cover all the bases, Aykroyd's robotic charmer, Elwood, recruits two more suits: J. Evan Bonifant's 29-year-old orphan, Busser, who sings like Jimmy Osmond and

The Real Blonde
Virgin Haymarket
15, 110 mins
Stylish satire that's definitely not fake
Blues Brothers 2000
Odeon Marble Arch
PG, 124 mins
Updated cult musical with same old tunes
Salut Cousin!
Curzon Phoenix
15, 110 mins
Grainy portrait of Algerians in Paris
Guy
ABC Piccadilly
15, 94 mins
Insane candid camera
Star Kid
Warner West End
PG, 100 mins
Dire sci-fi fantasy with rubber aliens

dances like Michael Jackson; and Joe Morton who, for the purposes of racial harmony, is Elwood's long-lost black stepbrother, Cabel.

Cabel doesn't come easy. He is the Commander of the Illinois State Police, and has the kind of interest in Elwood that Chief Inspector Dreyfus entertained for Inspector Clouseau.

Predictably, much of John Landis's film is lifted from his original template. Fresh from jail, Elwood's mission is to put the old band together again. It takes roughly four minutes before the first warrant goes out for his re-arrest, but by this time the *Blues Brothers* have also had to deal with the Russian Mafia and a rabid right-wing militia, group convinced that the *Blues Brothers* Band is a Jewish communist conspiracy.

The only palpable difference

is the expense incurred by the lush cinematography, the even more expensive mayhem Elwood leaves in his wake and, it has to be said, a new soundtrack of songs that many would consider essential listening. Songs like Steve Cropper and Eddie Floyd's 634-5789, performed by Floyd, Wilson "Wicked" Pickett and Jonny Lang, and Sonny Boy Williamson's *Checkin' Up On My Baby*, performed by Lonnie Brooks, Junior Wells and the Blues Brothers Band could and should become collectors' items.

As Elwood cajoles the old band out of their lucrative jobs and back on the road, Landis has fun turning their new workplaces into Busby Berkeley set pieces. Aretha Franklin reprises her classic *Respect* in a Mercedes Benz retail outlet; James Brown has a second coming as the Reverend Cleophus James in a tent; and drummer Willie Hall is plucked from his strip club which seems to be staffed by a synchronised regiment of half-nude future Miss World contestants.

Needless to say, Elwood's mission is a triumph of nostalgia over the commercialism and the various new evils of the 1990s. For all the high-tech effects, this is probably the most wholesome old-fashioned musical since *Oklahoma!*

There is nothing particularly wholesome about Merzak Allouché's *Salut Cousin!*, a deceptively slight tale about a young Algerian who arrives in Paris to pick up a suitcase of new clothes and take it back to Algiers. Allouche's long-lost cousin Mok puts him up in his squalid lodgings. Eager to show off his Parisian credentials, Mok, an aspiring rock poet, takes his unsophisticated cousin to gigs where his dreadful raps — somewhat insanely based on the children's stories of La Fontaine —

are rightly booed off stage. Allouche, who doesn't know much better, is suitably impressed.

It rapidly becomes clear that Mok is on a monorail to deep trouble. Up to his eyeballs in gambling debts and sleeping with the local gangster's girlfriend, he is forced into a paper wedding to stave off his creditors. By the time Allouche rumbles that all is not right with Mok's world, Allouché's shaky, hand-held camera has moved seamlessly from a comic clash of subcultures to a clear-eyed portrait of local racism and tarnished dreams.

Shot mainly from Allouche's upbeat perspective, this portrait of those who still dream of Algiers and those who have long buried their memories and moved on is a modest, subtitled success.

In my capacity as a drama critic, I have spent far too long polishing my resentment of "cutting edge" shows in far-flung fringe theatres to warm to Michael Lindsay-Hogg's experimental film, *Guy*.

A young female film-maker finds an unsuspecting stranger called Guy on a street corner and follows him relentlessly, camera on shoulder, for no perceptible reason. "Why are you following me around? Do I know you? What does your boyfriend think?" Guy (Vincent D'Onofrio) responds — all reasonable questions, which is more than can be said for most of the script. But, for reasons better known to himself, Guy submits to this insane intrusion and lets her follow him around and ruin his life.

The idea of a fly-in-the-face documentary might be fleetingly interesting, but by the time we have followed Guy into the lavatory and watched him urinate what little sympathy one has with this psychopathic piece of voyeurism goes down the plughole.

Which brings us neatly to Manny Coto's execrable science fiction film, *Star Kid*. Here the 12-year-old Spencer (Joseph Mazzello) gets to beat up the school bully and save his would-be girlfriend when a "cyborg" falls from outer space. Climbing into the suit gives Spencer supernatural powers.

However, he also has to save the Earth from various animated pieces of alien rubber before his overworked father and feisty older sister welcome him back to the bosom of his All-American family. What I want to know is — isn't it about time that the Martians won?



Bridgette Wilson is not *The Real Blonde* — which causes her no end of heartbreak

Thumbs down for Blues Brothers

Every week, young film fans discuss some of the latest releases...

BLUES BROTHERS 2000

Dan Young, 19: Enough to give you the blues. An atrocious movie. Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 20: Many people in the audience walked out — an indication of this film's quality. Emma Rolph, 19: I haven't seen the original and if it's anything like this, I don't want to. A definite worst film of the year nominee.

Laura Brook, 19: Dan Aykroyd and John Goodman do their best but nothing can save this dire movie.

STAR KID

Dora: A cheap and cheerful kiddies movie. I've seen worse. Leslie: Obviously aimed at a family audience. Kids might like it, but it irritated me enormously. Emma: Joseph Mazzello gives a nice little performance in this funny sci-fi drama. Laura: I didn't like it, but children might go for it big time.



GUY

Dora: A flawed but original piece of film-making. Movie of the week, although it wasn't much of a contest. Leslie: The story of a woman who constantly films a man she doesn't know. Odd, yes, but very watchable. Emma: Dark and intriguing. Vincent D'Onofrio is excellent. Laura: When the film's credibility is stretched, D'Onofrio's strong performance saves the day.

'A perfect pairing. A perfect film'

★★★★★

Jim Neasey - EYE MAGAZINE

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Peter Ackroyd finds that Dickens's letters reveal a cold, fearful man beneath a veneer of success and acclaim



Charles Dickens's public readings left him "dazed and worn"

It was the worst of times

When William Powell Frith painted Charles Dickens, at the beginning of these five years of correspondence, he noted that the expression of the novelist was of one "who had reached the topmost rung of a very high ladder, and was perfectly aware of his position". Yet that was only one aspect of a most elusive temperament. He was 47 years of age, but he looked much older; extant photographs show a nervous susceptibility wrought into the very cast of his features.

He might be pardoned the exhaustion. He had just separated from his wife in the most bitter and public fashion, and as a result had become estranged from most of his oldest friends. He was about to establish as well as edit a new weekly periodical and he was beginning work upon his twelfth novel, *A Tale of Two Cities*. Over the years covered by these two volumes, he would also complete *Great Expectations* and much of *Our Mutual Friend*. In the same period he embarked upon great tours of public readings which left him, in a phrase taken from one of his letters, "dazed and worn by heat". Yet still he could not stop.

The fashion for photography in the 1850s and 1860s had ensured that he was the single most recognised and recognisable author in the country, "people of all degrees and classes taking off their hats and greeting him as he passed". He also remained the

most influential novelist of his period, despite the fact that some critics accused him of caricature or grotesquerie.

So some of the correspondence here is addressed to dignitaries such as Palmerston and Carlyle. Lord Russell and Edwin Chadwick. Other letters, of a more private nature, are sent to Wilkie Collins and Bulwer Lytton. There are also letters to his solicitor and to his doctor, to his publisher and to his children. There is even one to his chimney-sweep, whom he addresses in the most literary terms. "Dear Sir, Since you last swept my study chimney it has developed some peculiar eccentricities... undergoing internal agitations of a most distressing nature... pours forth disastrous volumes... a comforting relief probably to the chimney...". And so it goes on, as Dickens envelops both the chimney and the sweep in the warmth of his imagination. There are letters here on the latest fires and murders — two topics for which he had a particular fondness — as well as discussions on the political and social affairs of the country.

There is one topic, however, which is conspicuously absent. No reference is made to his relationship with the young actress, Ellen Ternan, and even the most veiled

allusions have been subsequently concealed or erased. There has, of course, been endless speculation about the nature of their friendship, naturally fuelled by the novelist's frequent and mysterious disappearances to France where it is supposed that Ternan lived in seclusion with her mother. It has been suggested that they were engaged in a sexual affair, but there is no evidence for this in correspondence.

There is no doubt, however, about Dickens's own dominant mood during these years: it is one of sorrow. He writes to his close friend John Forster, of the "never-to-be-forgotten misery of this latter time" which he compared to the horrors of his London childhood; it seems that fame and success had been stripped away, leaving him as vulnerable as he was in the days when he worked in the blacking factory. He was almost constantly in ill-health. He said that he was "always weeping" with rheum and catarrh, but there may have been another cause for the tears.

Yet he never gave up. Whatever misgivings or miseries he suffered "I shall fight out of them", he wrote. He was a man of great courage and fortitude, but there may have been another cause for the tears.

London childhood; it seems that fame and success had been stripped away, leaving him as vulnerable as he was in the days when he worked in the blacking factory. He was almost constantly in ill-health. He said that he was "always weeping" with rheum and catarrh, but there may have been another cause for the tears.

up the ranks and march on". "Who is hit," he asked one correspondent, and replied: "I am hit." But he continued the fight. It is perhaps not surprising that his appearance and behaviour were sometimes compared to that of a military man, in their stolidity and precision: in his domestic life, too, he could be ruthless and dogmatic. Upon the subject of his ex-wife he was adamant. "That figure is out of my life," he wrote to Miss Burdett Coutts. "... and my desire is, never to see it again."

But the paradox is that this cruelty is an intrinsic part of his genius. When he describes his dying mother as "got up in sables like a female Hamlet", he is entering the world of characters such as Flora Finching and Mrs Gamp. These two volumes of correspondence emphasise one of the salient aspects of Dickens's life and art: when he was at his most miserable and sorrowful point, he was also capable of the wildest and most outlandish humour. There is a description here of a close friend's funeral as funny as anything in *Great Expectations*.

In the autumn of 1860 he burnt all the correspondence which had been sent to him for the last several years: it was fortunate, perhaps, that few people ever considered consigning Dickens's own correspondence to the fire. He remains alive in his letters, as in his art: this wonderful edition, now drawing slowly to a close, is the best possible introduction and tribute to the self-styled "Inimitable".

THE LETTERS OF CHARLES DICKENS
Volume 9 (1859-1861)
Volume 10 (1862-1864)
Edited by Graham Storey
OUP, £65 and £70
ISBN 0 19 122334
ISBN 0 19 122342

Things change; but not violence

This is an enthralling and disturbing book. Peter Hart is a young Canadian scholar who for nearly a decade has been investigating the experience of the war of independence and the subsequent civil war as it affected the communities of Co Cork from 1916 to 1923: he has brought to the task not only historical gifts of a high order but remarkable subtlety, insight, intelligence and compassion.

The excitement, fellowship and derring-do of revolutionary times in Rebel Cork have often been recollected and replayed; and Hart handles this dimension with great empathy and gives those legendary guerrillas (and balladeers) their due. But Cork — in many ways the crucible of violent revolutionary experience in this era — was also notable for a high proportion of Protestants, living in small farms and urban cottages as much as in Big Houses. Hart's reconstruction explores and recalls the experience of the losers, the victims, the apathetic and the wrongly accused. His work stands as the most probing analysis I have read of how "tit for tat" killings operate in enclosed rural communities, and the processes whereby neighbours become strangers and eventually enemies.

The book's prologue explores a case-study: "The Killing of Sergeant O'Donoghue". A popular "decent" local policeman, he was shot dead on the street in November 1920; later that night the homes of his suspected assailants were raided by his enraged comrades, and three further deaths ensued. Hart constructs the networks of family background, social geography and political assumptions which underlay the communities of Cork — using a rich range of sources, including the investigations compiled by the sergeant's relatives just after the event and his own interviews with survivors.

The mirror-imaging of intimate enmities is also explored by the last chapter of the book, on "Spies and

Roy Foster on the intimate enmities of rural Ireland

Informers". These descriptions, Hart shows, could mean anything or nothing (playing in the wrong band, talking to a policeman on the street). Yet the identifications are still used, surreptitiously, tagged on to children and even grandchildren: in the mind of the locality, many of these events could have happened yesterday.

Yet the versions of how they happened are imprisoned in mutually conflicting world-views. Hart

THE IRA AND ITS ENEMIES
Violence and Community in Cork, 1916-1923
By Peter Hart
OUP, £40
ISBN 0 19 820527 6

is too scrupulous — and too subtle — to make easy extrapolations to conflicts further north, a half-century later, but the assonances are unmistakable.

The sergeant, and his like, were Irish, Catholic, and came from families deeply integrated into the community. So, ostensibly, did the small Protestant farmers, drapers, schoolteachers; but they also became "targets" for reasons which had less to do with political affiliation than atavistic ethnic conflict ("Taking it out on the Protestants"). This happened particularly after the Treaty of 1921, when the civil war loosened the bonds of discipline imposed by republican authorities during the heroic fellowship of the war of independence.

But even during the earlier struggle, conflicts of definition were being fought out. Time and again, in oral evidence or newspaper

reports or reported altercations between neighbours on different sides, the phrase recurs: "I am as good an Irishman as you." By 1921, the idea of a "good Irishman" had been redefined; certainly those moderates who had supported Redmondite Home Rule were disqualified, let alone those representing the acquiescent Unionism of small Protestant communities. The extent to which they fled the area in the early 1920s has never been documented so closely before; in doing so, Hart extends and redefines what was meant by "the revolution in the village".

He also analyses the backgrounds, world-views, achievements and disappointments of the revolutionary generation: the Collins guerrillas who brought off famous coups like the annihilation of 17 Auxiliary cadets at Kilmichael — "a brave, daring and even brilliant ambush that turned into a massacre". It was the archetypal rebel victory: Hart points out that it also redefined the struggle in terms of "war" rather than episodic terrorist acts. By painstakingly deconstructing the many conflicting versions given, Hart also shows how and why rationalisations after the event emerged. The IRA claim that the Auxiliaries offered a false surrender, and the British statement that survivors were hacked to death, are equally exposed.

From such incidents, using ballads, memories, and the tools of anthropological research as well as an astonishing range of local and archival records, Hart recreates the contemporary mentality. In another tour de force he traces "the rise and fall of a revolutionary family", the resourceful Haleses of Ballinadee: the climax, where the crippled patriarch is carried out of the flames as the Black and Tans burn his beloved farmhouse to the ground, and the civil war turns brother against brother, strikes echoes of stories as old as time. It is a rare achievement to write a first book that is also a classic, but Peter Hart may have done it.



Hope for peace? Allegiances are passed down the generations as the present resonates with the past

America, broken promised land

Russell Celyn Jones

THE OLD RELIGION
By David Mamet
Faber, £9.99
ISBN 0 572 19260 2



Mamet: out of the ordinary

sional status of a White Man", for which privilege he loves America. He holds secular conversations with himself and his friend, Morris, philosophising about rules of chance — but in the safety of his own home. But Frank's tragedy is to attempt assimilation into Christian society outside that sanctuary, until one day he turns down the wrong street and into the first of a series of ill-fated events.

What seemed innocent quotidian encounters with neighbours and workers on that day become the basis for the prosecutor's case. Girls who worked happily for Frank for years now accuse him of being a lecher, getting at him through the lowest common

denominator. Like the student Carol in Mamet's stage play, *Oleanna*.

When Frank is finally condemned his personal philosophy becomes profound: "You swine. You Christians," who "long for some magical past where there was no strife and point and say, 'If he were gone, this past would reappear.' He takes lessons from a rabbi who explains how *amer* meant "bitter" in the Latin of the

original map-makers of America; how Christians award themselves "Godhood" by believing in their power to overcome chance — God's prerogative; how they never give to the poor, as enjoined by the New Testament.

The Old Religion has a preordained structure, but Mamet's treatment of that story is out of the ordinary. In deconstructing Frank, Mamet treats a fine line between self-questioning and self-indulgence. The dialogues seem to begin in the middle of an ongoing conversation, as though his characters' relationships exist outside the novel, which in a sense they do: "If I would... Yes, yes, yes," Frank said. "Yes, 'Act in... well, Morris. Morris. Each of us has... don't we? Each... wait a moment...' And there are only sparse descriptions of settings, leaving open most of the canvas for Frank's soliloquies. But for such a short novel (194 pages, double-spaced) it is stimulating and inimitable.

ONE can't help but flinch at this book's very title, so unsettling is the notion of women's experience in the Holocaust as a separate object of study. This, surely, is one feminism too far. Yet to its credit, this important book doesn't discount dissenting voices, but includes and addresses them, ultimately making a persuasive case for the legitimacy of its subject.

The dissenters' argument isn't without power. Won't a focus on women's experience inevitably create hierarchies of suffering and banalise the subject, as if the Holocaust were just another of life's inequalities? The dissenters balk at the imposition of today's concerns on the past, believing that making distinctions between victims deflects attention from Nazi policy.

Though a few examples here support them, the counter-arguments are mostly more convincing. The editors suggest that by attending to gender, we get a more finely nuanced understanding of the Holocaust. As Mary Felstiner has written: "Along the station towards extinction... each gender lived its own journey."

Anne Frank no more a lone voice

Anne Karpf

WOMEN IN THE HOLOCAUST
Edited by Dafna Ofer and Lenore J. Weitzman
Yale, £19.95
ISBN 0 300 07354 2

Nor is this merely a modern perspective: in 1941 Emmanuel Ringelblum, the great Jewish archivist of the Warsaw Ghetto, asked an historian to research women in Warsaw since the beginning of the war and made his own terse observations.

And yet, Anne Frank aside, the most often cited Holocaust testimony (Levi, Wiesel, Appelfeld) is by men, rather than women, and as in other spheres the male experience is considered universal and the women's particular. This collection reinstates

women in the universal, with riveting accounts of their role in the Resistance. But it also challenges the emphasis in Holocaust literature on armed resistance (in which more men were engaged) by drawing attention to those rescue activities more prevalent among women, which have been relatively neglected and devalued.

Other chapters trace the changes in women's lives wrought by the war. While Jewish men in Germany lost jobs after the Nazis came to power, women's work increased. Ironically (and this shouldn't be taken as a recommendation for genocide), in the ghettos women were forced to take on occupational and social roles taboo in pre-war bourgeois Jewish society.

Many contributors examine the ways in which women camp inmates, more than men, formed social, nurturing bonds, which aided survival.

Lenore Weitzman's brilliant chapter on "passing" blends testimony with theory to show how more women than men were able to pass in Poland as Aryan, partly because Polish Jewish men were almost invariably circumcised and so feared physical exposure.

Perhaps the most problematic difference raised here is motherhood and sexuality. Pregnancy in concentration camps was, in a dreadful irony, life-threatening (pregnant women, and those with small children, were sent straight to the gas chambers). Researchers have also emphasised women's sense of sexual vulnerability and humiliation during the Holocaust. But Sara R. Horowitz, in an excellent concluding essay, argues that exploring women's experience almost exclusively in terms of sexuality marginalises it once again. She urges examination of the role of gender not only in women's accounts but also in men's. This book isn't the first to begin to tackle these issues, but its rich diversity of perspectives makes a major contribution to our understanding of them.

Robert Nye

COLLECTED POEMS
By Amy Clampitt
Faber, £14.99
ISBN 0 19 288077 2
COLLECTED POEMS
1948-1998
By D. J. Enright
OUP, £15
ISBN 0 19 288077 2

she's only three years old," said the man she was to marry.

In view of all this, I wish I could like her actual poems more, but in truth they seem to me a disappointment. Shafts of light appear amid a fog of words, but there is little in them in the way of mind or heart, and I note that even her fervent admirers grow reticent when they have to address what her work is about. The more successful things are sequences concerned with other writers — *Voyages*, best of all, a homage to John Keats which owes a lot to Walter Jackson Bates's great biography but which at least has a beginning, a middle, and an end. Too many of the others are shapeless poetical stuff, rich in feeling but lacking emotional focus, poetry rather than poems. I might be wrong, but I think that Amy Clampitt has been overpraised.

D. J. Enright, born the same year as Clampitt, seems to have lived in a different world. When young he had an old head on his shoulders and his early work was very much part of the Movement popular in the Fifties: terse verse, at best memorable and sensible, at worst like an examination of what someone once described as two bald men fighting for possession of a comb.

Enright is as English as they come, never more than when he writes about his sojourns in foreign parts. The titles of his books give his flavour: *Some Men are Brothers*, *Bread Rather Than Blossoms*, *Season Ticket*. All get put together here. Enright is unfailingly readable. The trouble is his lack of lyricism: so much understatement can sound like a professional mutter. But there's nothing strained or phoney about him, no barbed crap, and his concern for other people is commendable.

Soldier

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EQUESTRIANISM

Lottery cash gives added hope in bid for medals

By Jenny MacArthur

BRITAIN'S hopes for success at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney received a boost with the announcement yesterday that the British Equestrian Federation (BEF), on the recommendation of the UK Sports Council, is to receive a £762,000 grant from the Lottery Sports Fund for the initial year of the BEF's World-Class Performance Plan.

In a package that includes all the Olympic disciplines except for showjumping, which is being considered separately — £300,000 will go to riders, £105,000 to horse trials, £107,000 to disabled dressage and £92,000 to dressage, with £160,000 for the BEF. Part of the BEF grant is designated for a world-class performance director, yet to be appointed, who will be responsible for producing the full performance plan to take the sport through to the Athens Olympics in 2004.

David Carpenter, the Director of Lottery at the UK Sports Council, said: "British equestrian sport is highly competitive both at European and Olympic level, but a lot has been achieved on very limited resources over the last decade or so. This injection of finance and expertise will allow riders to continue to compete at the highest levels." Thirty-four riders are under consideration for grants.

Although British equestrian teams have been a traditional source of Olympic medals, they have returned empty-handed from the past two Games. After Atlanta, when it cost £400,000 to send the three teams, Michael Bates, then chairman of the BEF, vowed a "complete rethink" in the build-up to Sydney.

David Robinson, a business consultant, was appointed to help the BEF and the three disciplines to decide on a new four-year plan, and to help to formulate an application to

the Lottery Sports Fund. Robinson, who was "delighted" with the announcement, was already on to the next task yesterday: drafting an advertisement for the position of performance director — which must be advertised nationally.

Andrew Nicholson, still smarting from the reprimand he received at Badminton ten days ago for allegedly using "less than polite" language to a fence steward, heads the field for the Chubb Insurance Windsor Horse Trials with King Leo and Valhalla, his up-and-coming young horses.

The event, which begins today in The Great Park, has two international classes for the first time and also hosts the British Junior Championships. Blyth Tait, the Olympic champion, and Pippa Funnell, a former national champion, are among the 173 starters, but Kristina Gifford, the European bronze medal-winner, is an absentee. She has a small fracture to her right leg after a fall from O'Leary at Punchestown last weekend.

Nicholson, a member of New Zealand's 1992 Olympic silver medal-winning team and the 1996 team that won the bronze, has received many letters of support following what many considered an unjust carpeting at Badminton for "throwing his whip in a violent manner" and language that was less than polite. The incident followed a fall from Jagernaut when he was two fences from home on what had been a faultless round.

"I might have been cursing when I threw the stick at the jump, but it was not directed at the stewards," Nicholson said yesterday.

In the cross-country on Saturday, Nicholson intends to remain silent. "I'll have my whip pinned to my side and sticking plaster over my mouth," he said.



Lisa Bellinger and Paul Hurley, star British juniors in the Latin section, brew up some of that Saturday Night Fever-feeling at Bognor recently

Dancing treat in store for Latin lovers

Ruth Gledhill says home competitors will be heavily outnumbered in the Open British at Blackpool

A s nearly 4,000 competitors, nine-tenths of them from abroad, descend on Blackpool tomorrow for the biggest event in the dance sport calendar, the Open British, the future of the sport in Britain is being questioned as never before.

Marcus and Karen Hilton, the professionals, with a record eight consecutive world titles to their name, are expected to hold on to their No 1 slot, although Luca and Loraine Baricchi, the newly-married English challengers, are certain to give them a hard fight.

According to Hilton, holding on to a title is just as tough as winning it in the first place. "There are the newcomers on the block as well as the established couples," Hilton said. "So we can never be complacent. We go on the floor to prove a point. We are the best and we have to prove it."

In the Latin arena, follow-

ing the retirement of Donnie Burns and Gaynor Fairweather, world champions on 13 occasions, the threat from abroad is stronger than ever.

Bryan Watson and Karen Hardy will be glad of all the support the crowd can provide when they take on the defending champions, Jukka Haapalainen and Sirpa Suutari, from Finland, in the professional section. They were second to them last May, although this result was reversed at the Star Ball in London in January.

Already riding high after the World Ten dance in Austria last weekend, where they were ninth and the top-placed English couple, they flew home on Sunday to win the UK Open Ten Dance championship in Birmingham.

At the Open British, however, they will be dancing against couples aged up to 21, whereas in Europe the age limit is 19. They would like to make the semi-final this year

and are hoping for the final next year. Hurley, from Hornchurch, Essex, excelled in other sports before switching to dancing at the surprisingly late age of 12. "It is a sport, in as much as it is a competitive activity in an environment which is physically demanding," he said. "But it is also very artistic."

"I had done football since I was really young, I did karate for five years and by the age of 11 I had done everything in swimming that I could do until I was 15. I had always liked music and dancing and I just felt like doing something different."

"To be a competitive dancer you have to have a cool head and keep as relaxed as possible. I'm really lucky because I do not get nervous, I get excited."

Burns said: "The problem we have in this country is that competitors from the former iron curtain countries are

hungry for success. They have a vast amount of artistry and talent. Materially, they are not living in the comfort zone like we are. There is no holding them back."

According to Keith Jones, vice-chairman of the British dance council, the future for the sport in this country is looking bleak. The council has convened two open meetings this summer to discuss the crisis.

Writing in *Dance News*, and in the June edition of the magazine of the national association of dance teachers, Jones says: "As so many championships are now won by foreign couples the writing must be on the wall."

While Olympic recognition for the sport means it could pick up in this country, that is not guaranteed. "It is estimated that in the UK there are less than 3,000 amateurs registered and only a handful of professionals," Jones says. "Most major competitions are totally dominated by foreigners."

Of more than 1,400 couples who will be competing in Blackpool over the coming week, just 182 are British.

SAILING

Rivals vie to finish in shadow of Cayard

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE yachts in the Whitbread Round the World Race complete their nine-month, 31,600-mile journey on Sunday, when they sail into Southampton. *EF Language*, the Swedish entry, has already secured the Volvo Trophy with overall victory but, for the rest of the fleet, there is still much to play for.

Swedish Match goes into the leg in second place with *Merit Cup* and *Cheslie Racing* third and fourth respectively. *Innovation Kvaerner* is also pursuing the points for first place in the final leg and has an outside chance of finishing runner-up.

Silk Cut, the British entry, is fifth and trails *Swedish Match* by 69 points but only has a slim chance of finishing second overall. If *Silk Cut* wins the final leg and collects maximum points, and its nearest rivals finish seventh, eighth and ninth, the British yacht would then take second place.

The last leg, from La Rochelle in France, will start tomorrow and the competitors are expected to cross the finishing line on Sunday from midday onwards.

For Paul Cayard, the victorious skipper, it will bring a sense of anticlimax. "It's going to be hard to duplicate this feeling," Cayard said. "But it's sort of an anticlimax now because the win hasn't sunk in yet."

EF Language has won three of eight legs despite starting as an outsider, largely because of the relative inexperience of Cayard and the last-minute withdrawal of Nick White as navigator.

Critics had also said that Cayard was not paying enough attention to *EF Language* during training, when he was also involved in the America's Cup tournament with the *America One* team in San Francisco. But *EF Language* won the first leg and Cayard has not looked back.

Cayard said that better organisation and hard work were the keys to the victory. Crews normally take a few days off once in port, Cayard said, but his had continued to train.

"Winning the Whitbread is a climax in any sailor's life," Mark Rudiger, the navigator, said.

PRIZE DRAW AND OFFER

THE TIMES

FLY BRITISH MIDLAND FROM £60 RETURN

Flights to 15 destinations throughout the UK and Europe from just £60 return, per person. Choose from nine airports in Britain and Ireland. Enjoy two nights away or more. Fly between July 6 and December 17, 1998.

To celebrate British Midland's Diamond Jubilee, The Times offers you big savings on return flights to 15 destinations throughout the UK and Europe. Prices start from just £60 return and you could save as much as £39 on your ticket compared with British Midland's lowest published fares. A table of destinations and fares is below. British Midland has more than 1,500 flights a week to 28 destinations throughout the UK and Europe. It was voted Best European Short-Haul Airline 1997.

HOW TO APPLY Collect 12 differently numbered tokens, 10 from The Times and two from The Sunday Times, and attach them to an application form. Tokens will appear until May 24. One application is valid for two return tickets. Only one application per person and two applications per household are permitted. Applications must be received at the address stated on the form by Friday, June 5, 1998. You will receive a fulfilment pack with a British Midland discount-flight voucher, a timetable and details of how to book. Allow 28 days for delivery. Bookings must be made between Mon, June 22 and Fri, July 31, 1998, at least 14 days before you wish to travel. All flights must originate from the UK or Dublin. All flights to Europe are via Heathrow or East Midlands. The offer is open to UK and Republic of Ireland residents only. It is subject to availability, so book early. The offer is for a minimum two-night stay and two people must travel together. No travel is permitted on Sundays or on flights departing after 2pm on Fridays. Full terms and conditions appeared in The Times on Monday.

DESTINATIONS	Heathrow	Belfast	East Midlands	Edinburgh	Glasgow	Leeds/Bradford	Manchester	Teesside	Dublin (incl tax)
Amsterdam	£58	£118	£58	£118	£118	£118	£118	£118	£100
Belfast	£50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brussels	£59	£119	£59	£119	£119	£119	£119	£119	£100
Colonne	£52	£142	£52	£142	£142	£142	£142	£142	£125
Dublin	£50	—	—	£50	£50	—	—	—	—
East Midlands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Edinburgh	£50	—	£50	—	—	—	—	—	—
Frankfurt	£55	£145	£55	£145	£145	£145	£145	£145	£125
Glasgow	£50	—	£50	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heathrow	—	£50	—	£50	£50	£50	£50	£50	£50
Leeds/Bradford	£50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manchester	£50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paris	£57	£117	£57	£117	£117	£117	£117	£117	£100
Progne	£153	£203	£203	£203	£203	£203	£203	£203	£175
Teesside	£50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Win one of 500 pairs of tickets in British Midland's Diamond Jubilee prize draw

This year British Midland celebrates 60 years of high-flying success. To mark the airline's achievement, Times readers are offered the chance to win one of 500 pairs of British Midland return tickets from London Heathrow to Amsterdam for just 60p each in our exclusive prize draw. Simply collect four tokens to enter. British Midland will donate the 60p charge to Save the Children.

HOW TO ENTER Collect three differently numbered tokens from The Times and one token from The Sunday Times. Send them with the completed prize-draw entry form to appear in The Times again on Saturday, with a competition question. Winners will be selected at random from all correct entries received by Friday, June 5, 1998. Winners will get a voucher for two return tickets from London Heathrow to Amsterdam for 60p each, subject to the terms and conditions which were published in The Times on Monday.

CHANGING TIMES

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Occasionally the best trump suit for game will be the so-called "Moyasian" 4-3 fit, named after Sonny Moyse, sometime editor of the American magazine *The Bridge World*, who had a penchant for that type of contract. The hallmarks of a sound Moyasian are strong trumps including the ace (a vital card for keeping trump control) and the ability to take ruffs in the hand with the three-card trump holding.

Dealer West	Game All	IMP's
♠ 10 2 ♥ Q 8 7 2 ♦ A J 7 4 2 ♣ 4 3	♠ 10 2 ♥ Q 8 7 2 ♦ A J 7 4 2 ♣ 4 3	♠ Q 5 3 ♥ J 10 9 5 4 3 ♦ 8 ♣ 10 7 2
♠ 9 8 7 6 ♥ A 6 ♦ 10 3 ♣ A Q 9 8 5	♠ A K J 4 ♥ K ♦ Q 9 8 6 5 ♣ K J 6	

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: ace of hearts.

This is from one of the recent "Goldway" matches played using the internet bridge club OKBridge. The challengers, Mark Feldman and Sharon Osberg, achieved the novelty of a successful "sub-Moyasian" 4-2 fit.

Goldman's lead-directing Three Club bid persuaded Feldman to explore alternatives to the obvious Five Diamond contract, which looked doubtful on a club lead through his king-jack. He tried Three Spades and was raised to Four.

West led the ace of hearts and switched to a trump (as

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Shirov's weakness

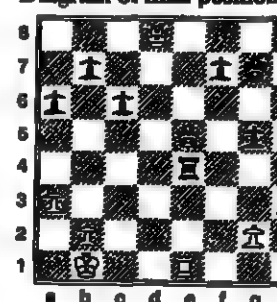
In spite of his vast combinational abilities, Alexei Shirov suffers from a similar weakness to Garry Kasparov, namely a predilection for risky systems, particularly with Black. After a win in the first game today, the second game sees Shirov perpetually struggling in a King's Indian Defence, where Black sacrifices space and accepts certain weaknesses in his structure to obtain latent counter-attacking chances. In this instance, the strategy backfires.

White: Vladimir Kramnik
Black: Alexei Shirov
Vienna 1996

Slav Defence	Slav Defence
1 Nf3 2 d4 3 Nc3 4 e4 5 Nf3 6 Bc4 7 Qe2 8 d5 9 exd5 10 Nxd5 11 Bf4 12 Nc3 13 Bg5 14 Bxh6 15 Qxh6 16 Qd2 17 Bf4 18 Qd3 19 Qd2 20 Qd3 21 Qd2 22 Qd3 23 Qd2 24 Qd3 25 Qd2 26 Qd3 27 Qd2 28 Qd3 29 Qd2 30 Qd3 31 Qd2 32 Qd3 33 Qd2 34 Qd3 35 Qd2 36 Qd3	1 Nf3 2 d4 3 Nc3 4 e4 5 Nf3 6 Bc4 7 Qe2 8 d5 9 exd5 10 Nxd5 11 Bf4 12 Nc3 13 Bg5 14 Bxh6 15 Qxh6 16 Qd2 17 Bf4 18 Qd3 19 Qd2 20 Qd3 21 Qd2 22 Qd3 23 Qd2 24 Qd3 25 Qd2 26 Qd3 27 Qd2 28 Qd3 29 Qd2 30 Qd3 31 Qd2 32 Qd3 33 Qd2 34 Qd3 35 Qd2 36 Qd3

White resigns

Diagram of final position



White: Vladimir Kramnik
Black: Alexei Shirov
Tilburg 1997
King's Indian Defence

Slav Defence	Slav Defence
1 Nf3 2 d4 3 Nc3 4 e4 5 Nf3 6 Bc4 7 Qe2 8 d5 9 exd5 10 Nxd5 11 Bf4 12 Nc3 13 Bg5 14 Bxh6 15 Qxh6 16 Qd2 17 Bf4 18 Qd3 19 Qd2 20 Qd3 21 Qd2 22 Qd3 23 Qd2 24 Qd3 25 Qd2 26 Qd3 27 Qd2 28 Qd3 29 Qd2 30 Qd3 31 Qd2 32 Qd3 33 Qd2 34 Qd3 35 Qd2 36 Qd3	1 Nf3 2 d4 3 Nc3 4 e4 5 Nf3 6 Bc4 7 Qe2 8 d5 9 exd5 10 Nxd5 11 Bf4 12 Nc3 13 Bg5 14 Bxh6 15 Qxh6 16 Qd2 17 Bf4 18 Qd3 19 Qd2 20 Qd3 21 Qd2 22 Qd3 23 Qd2 24 Qd3 25 Qd2 26 Qd3 27 Qd2 28 Qd3 29 Qd2 30 Qd3 31 Qd2 32 Qd3 33 Qd2 34 Qd3 35 Qd2 36 Qd3

Black resigns

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

BALDWIN
a. An apple
b. A chess end-game
c. A type of insurance policy

GLEE
a. Facetious
b. A Highland sheep
c. Blue clay

ALOCASIA

a. Disorientation
b. A plant
c. A rash

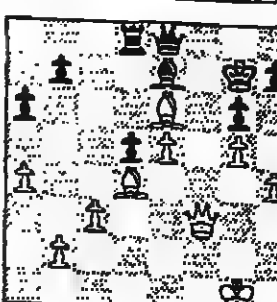
GAVAGE
a. A Pyrenean region
b. Force-feeding
c. Form of feudal labour

Answers on page 50

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Aagaard - Houkka, Hampstead, 1998. How did White make full use of his active bishops to score a quick win?



Solution on page 50

Matt Dickinson on the England coach's determination to go by the book

Hoddle demands best behaviour



Beckham and the other England players must ensure that they do not step out of line

They had better start running the bath in France now if the tales of refereeing clampdowns at the World Cup this summer are right. Certainly, Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, does not doubt Fifa's determination to stamp out dangerous play and he warned this week of games being reduced to a farcical "eight versus eight" through an epidemic of red cards.

It is in the hope of ensuring that England are not swept away in Fifa's clean-up campaign that Hoddle has brought in Paul Durkin this week to referee England's training sessions. The FA Carling Premiership official, who will be England's representative in the summer, has enjoyed positive feedback from the players, but he has done nothing to reduce the alarmist stories which suggest that the tournament is most likely to be won by the team with the cleanest defence as much as the most dangerous attack.

Durkin has already informed Alan Shearer that his lunge at Tony Adams in the FA Cup Final on Saturday would have merited a red card in France rather than the yellow he escaped with at Wembley. "He didn't hurt Tony, but it was a reckless challenge and Fifa have said that any tackle which endangers the safety of an opponent is a sending-off offence," the referee said.

"A lot of players still don't understand the new interpretations. I think the likelihood is that there will be a spate of dismissals at the World Cup. I don't want to be alarmist but players will have to be 100 per cent sure in their judgment when they go in for tackles."

It is not just the Butts, Batts and Inces, though, that have caused worry. The referees have also been ordered to clamp down on dissent and that is one area where David Beckham has often talked himself into problems. On occasions, he has used some distinctly gutter language.

The aggrieved throwing of the arms and the petulant complaints about free kicks have already landed him in trouble, the 23-year-old missing the climax of Le Tournoi last summer because of two needless cautions. Hoddle is determined to ensure no repeat.

"It is going to be a big problem during the World Cup and that is why we have brought Paul Durkin in," he said. "People talk about David Batty and Paul Ince and the more combative players in the squad. But I will also be having a word with the likes of David Beckham."

"Some of the things I have seen this season will earn players red cards, not just the yellow they are used to, and I do not only mean tackles and fouls. In David's case, it is about how he reacts when the ball is dead. You can't talk to referees in the World Cup and hope it will be ignored. Often it

and made me appreciate that there will be things that go on and yellow cards given out for things you don't think are right. You've got to try to keep your mouth shut."

While England were initially frustrated to see that their first game would be on the sixth day of the tournament, the flip side is that they will have plenty of opportunities to observe how referees are interpreting the new guidelines.

With each official only guaranteed one game in France, and Fifa watching their every move, the pressure on the referees to perform or face an early flight home will be as intense as that on the players. "Games will be refereed to the letter rather than the spirit of the law," Durkin said. "Fifa made it clear that they expect referees to adhere to these instructions so there will be huge pressure on whoever takes the first game between Scotland and Brazil."

As Durkin rightly points out, in the event of the inevitable controversy, it is the players who should look at themselves rather than blaming the referees, who are simply following orders. They have, after all, been warned.

Whether footballers can change the tackling habits of a lifetime in the space of a few weeks remains to be seen. But with the stricter rules due to be extended into the Premiership next season, they have little option.



Beckham shows the sort of dissent that Hoddle is anxious to eliminate from the Manchester United player's game

Amateur status small price for a Lamborghini

John Hopkins delights in good fortune of professional colleague

Amateur golfers the world over will sympathise with Derek Lawrenson, who had to make the biggest decision of his golfing life yesterday afternoon after he had won a Lamborghini Diablo for holing in one during a pro-am. Should he take the £189,000 car, make a fast getaway — it can reach a speed of 208mph — and say goodbye to competitive amateur golf? Or should he forego this enormous prize in order to continue to enjoy the pleasures of membership at Moor Hall, his club in Birmingham, and of competitions with his fellow golf writers?

For Lawrenson, it was the stuff of dreams. He arrived on tee of the 198-yard, 15th hole at Mill Ride golf club, swung a three-iron and holed out. The world, on a glorious summer's day, took on an even rosier hue.

I got my first hole in one two months ago, after 45 years of trying. I won nothing and was happy to pay for three magnums of Bollinger to be consumed by my friends. Lawrenson, for his sixth hole in one, won a vastly expensive car. Some people have all the luck.

Lawrenson is a left-hander who holed in one when we played together in the Canary Islands ten years ago. His handicap, once one, is now seven, but there are times when the fluency of his swing and the purity of his striking reveal that he was once good enough to compete in the Lytham Trophy and to have hit balls on a practice ground alongside Sandy Lyle and Mark James.

Yesterday Lawrenson, the golf correspondent of *The Sunday Telegraph*, was not only playing with footballers — he was playing with Steve MacMassman and Paul Ince, two stars of Liverpool, the club at which he holds season tickets. To have played with them on a

summer's day, and to have played well, would have been more than enough. To hole in one and win such a prize — his cup was surely running over.

But should he take the car? If he did so, according to Grant Moir, assistant secretary (rules) of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, he would forfeit his amateur status and it could take ten years for him to regain it.

In this time Lawrenson, now known as a non-amateur, would be able to compete only in events at which the organisers were prepared to grant him a temporary handicap.

Moor Hall might be prepared to do so for internal club competitions as might P G Wodehouse's Wrecking Crew, otherwise known as the Association of Golf Writers, but, equally, they might not.

If Lawrenson was worried at missing out on some of the competitive camaraderie of golf he could, so long as he did not handle the car, immediately hand it over to charity. He could decline to receive the car and accept instead a sum of money to commemorate his feat. But this sum would be a maximum of £200.

A hard decision? Not really. Croesus might walk away from the car because he had a bob or two, as might Jimmy Patino who has golden rules down at Valderrama — he has the gold so he makes the rules. But the opportunity to receive a payment — greater, just, than his salary from *The Sunday Telegraph* — is surely one that Lawrenson and almost any other amateur put in a similar position would leap at.

I often said jokingly when we played together that he was a lucky golfer, and particularly when he had narrowly beaten me, by 5 and 4, say. Now he has proved it. Good luck to him.

Seven ills of Roma have Iran coach Ivic counting the cost

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

IRAN dismissed Tomislav Ivic, their Croatian coach, yesterday, only three weeks before the start of the World Cup finals. Iran lost 7-1 to AS Roma, the Serie A team, on Tuesday night.

According to a report from a news agency in Iran, Ivic has been replaced by Jalal Talebi, a member of the Iran team in the early 1960s and coach of the Indonesia Olympic team in 1966. Talebi was appointed technical adviser to the World Cup squad earlier this month. Ivic, 64, was appointed in January on a six-month contract to succeed Brazilian Valdeir Vieira, who took Iran to only their second finals by winning the final World Cup qualifier against Australia in November. Vieira was in charge for only two months after the previous coach had been dismissed.

Ivic coached Paris St Germain, Marseilles and Ajax in a career that saw him serve as vice-president of Hajduk Split, the club with which he achieved his first significant success in the 1970s.

But Iran were jeered off the field in Tehran after Ivic's first

match, a 2-0 loss to Hungary, and the Croatian increasingly failed to satisfy the country's football-mad fans and its politically-charged federation. Subsequent lacklustre performances on a tour of France exacerbated the situation and Ivic found himself defending his record and tactics on national television.

Last week, Ivic predicted that Iran would beat either Yugoslavia or Germany in group F at the World Cup



Ivic dismissed

finals and said Iran were "like a diamond that just needed to be polished". The defeat on Tuesday, however, was too much for his country's federation, even though Iran were without Karim Bagheri, a midfielder player, and Khodadad Azizi, a striker. Both play in the Bundesliga.

"Despite Ivic being an experienced and highly competent coach, he could not show the necessary efficiency in the time available," Mohsen Safaei Farahani, head of the federation, was quoted as saying. "Therefore, we came to the conclusion that, in the World Cup, he cannot coach the Iranian team in a satisfactory manner."

Farahani apologised for Iran's heavy defeat by Roma and said: "People must rest assured that we will not spare any effort to back up the national soccer team, a sign of which is replacing the head coach."

Iran's next World Cup warm-up match is against Internazionale in Milan on Saturday, and one person who

will not be disappointed by yesterday's news is Ivic's wife. She was told in January that she might as well stay home in Croatia as he expected to work "like a miner" until after the World Cup.

Three weeks ahead of the World Cup opening match, Fifa, the world's governing body, still does not have a long-promised video ready for referees and teams to show which kind of tackles will get an automatic red card at the finals.

The new tackle-from-behind ruling has been one of the most controversial issues in the build-up to the tournament and, two months ago, Fifa promised an instructional video. With most teams already deep into their final preparations, however, the video has not made it beyond Fifa's referees' committee — despite the urgency.

The video is expected to have some 18 tackles, to be divided into three categories — those showing tackles that should only be a foul, others that deserve a yellow card and a final batch that should see the red card produced.

Premiership gates climb to new high

ATTENDANCES at FA Carling Premiership matches passed the 11 million mark this season for the first time since the league was reduced to 20 clubs, new figures revealed yesterday.

The average Premiership gate was up from 28,434 last season to 29,189, an increase of 2.65 per cent, as the crowds continued to flock back to football in the wake of the success of the European championship.

The biggest increase was seen at Derby County (up 62.7 per cent) as the club pushed for a European place after its move to Pride Park.

The promoted — and subsequently relegated — sides Barnsley (up 62.46 per cent), Bolton Wanderers (up 53.88 per cent) and Crystal

Palace (up 36.67 per cent) also showed large rises despite their troubles.

Manchester United succeeded in attracting more than one million spectators to a ground for the first time (up 0.61 per cent to 1,048,185), while gates at Chelsea (up 21.85 per cent as renovation work was completed at Stamford Bridge), Sheffield Wednesday (up 11.74 per cent) and Wimbledon (up 10.02 per cent) also rose markedly.

The only losers were Tottenham Hotspur (down 6.19 per cent) and Everton (down 2.24 per cent).

Peter Leaver, chief executive of the Premier League, said: "These figures, more than any others, show the continued success and popularity of the Premiership."

Foe unlikely to go to Old Trafford

MANCHESTER United will look at other transfer targets after Martin Edwards, the chief executive, admitted it was unlikely that they would sign Marc-Vivien Foe, the Lens midfielder player. United have yet to hear Lens' response to their final offer, believed to be £5 million, for the Cameroon international, but Edwards is pessimistic about their chances.

The French champions want £8 million for the 23-year-old and Edwards is adamant that United will not go any higher. "I haven't heard from them, but it [the deal] is looking increasingly unlikely," Edwards said.

"We won't be improving our offer," United, who have paid PSV Eindhoven a club record £10.75 million for Jaap Stam,

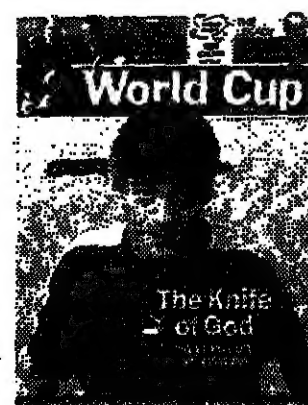
the Holland defender, will now turn their attention to other players but John Gregory, the Aston Villa manager, will fight any attempt by United to sign Dwight Yorke, the Trinidad striker.

"As far as I am concerned, Dwight has two years on his contract and he is not leaving," Gregory said. Jim Whitley, the Manchester City midfielder player, has rejected an offer to play for Wales. Laurie McMenemy, the Northern Ireland manager, persuaded Whitley, 23, who was born in Zambia, to change his mind after Wales named him in their squad for the games away to Malta and Tunisia. Jeff Whitley, 19, also of Manchester City, the brother of Jim, has won two caps for Northern Ireland.

30p

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

Baseball sets legal precedent that other sports may follow

Supporters starting to fight back in ticket war

The football supporter, as one dedicated fan remarked yesterday, is probably the most loyal customer to be found in any business. That observation, by Frank Gilmour, treasurer of the Newcastle United Independent Supporters' Association and club season-ticket holder for 24 years, was delivered on the morning that the FA Premier League announced record attendance figures for the season just ended.

As the noose around the neck of the season-ticket holder pulls ever tighter, with rising prices and growing competition for seats to be bought well in advance, so the potential grows for disappointment. What, after all, is a supporter assured of when committing hundreds of pounds towards a season of matches? A reserved seat and nothing more, arguably.

There is no guarantee of the product, only an assumption that the football club will do its best. Can we always be sure? Given that most things American cross the Atlantic eventually, a cautionary tale about the Florida Marlins baseball team is relevant. In two cases, it emerged this week, they are being sued by season-ticket holders irked that they are not getting what they thought they were buying.

The Marlins won the World Series last year and more than 10,000 fans purchased tickets for the new season. Then, before it began, the Marlins discarded 12 players from its World Series roster, lowering its payroll from \$53 million to \$24 million.

"The Florida Marlins are 100 per cent committed to putting an aggressive, exciting team on the field for our sixth season," Don Smiley, the team president, wrote in a newsletter sent to prospective season-ticket holders. "I feel like I have been lied to," Octavio

DAVID POWELL



Fernandez, who is bringing one of the lawsuits.

What, then, should a football season-ticket holder have the right to expect? Gilmour recalled how, this time last year, he bought his ticket believing that he would see Les Ferdinand, Peter Beardsley and Robbie Elliott, whom he had enjoyed watching the previous season, only to find that, by the time the new campaign was into its stride, they had departed.

Adding to Gilmour's disappointment, Faustino Asprilla left midway through the season. It would be absurd to suggest that clubs cannot play



The mid-season departure of Asprilla irked Newcastle fans

the transfer market once the season has begun but Gilmour argues that clubs that make mistakes should offer a refund. "I am a publican and, in the retail business, you refund the customer if they are

not getting what they paid for," Gilmour said.

"Newcastle have gone from being a very attractive team to one that is dull and mundane because they no longer have those charismatic players," Sheila Spiers, of the Football Supporters' Association (FSA), said. "It compares with the Florida Marlins to a certain extent but the football clubs are careful not to make statements like the Marlins."

At the heart of the lawsuits against the Marlins is the advertising and promotional material sent to prospective season-ticket holders. Spiers, a Liverpool season-ticket holder, said that the club sends out only a renewal form. However, Gilmour said of Newcastle: "In the last few years, they have put in a covering letter from the club saying that they are committed to providing high-quality entertainment."

As rugby union follows the

UP UP AND AWAY - THE PREMIERSHIP PRICE HIKE

	1997	1998	Change
Arsenal	£702	£806	15%
Aston Villa	£306	£374	22%
Blackburn Rovers	£345	£399	16%
Chelsea	£887	£1025	16%
Cowboy City	£330	£363	11%
Derby County	£458	£470	3%
Everton	£285	£295	4%
Leeds United	£385	£420	9%
Leicester City	£535	£589	10%
Liverpool	£300	£330	10%
Manchester United	£380	£399	5%
Sheffield Wednesday	Prices unavailable		
Southampton	£560	£396	10%
Tottenham Hotspur	£624	£710	14%
West Ham United	Prices unavailable		
Wimbledon	£480	£500	4%

All prices relate to most expensive tickets

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The new talk radio breakfast
1053/1089am

WORDWATCHING

Answers from page 44

BALDWIN

(a) A common variety of eating apple, also a tree bearing the type of apple. An acronym from a personal name. "Looking out through my study window, I see Mr. Biglow busy in gathering his Baldwins."

GLEE

(a) A blue-grey soil or soil layer in which iron and manganese compounds are reduced through being waterlogged. Also, such a soil mottled with brownish oxidised patches as a result of periods of relative dryness. A Ukrainian word for sticky bluish clay. "The words glee and glickification were derived from the popular Ukrainian and introduced into scientific terminology in 1905 by G. N. Visotski."

ALOCASIA

(b) A plant of a genus from tropical Asia cultivated for its foliage, closely and confusingly allied to alocasia. The name is said to be an alteration of the latter plant. "Alocasia should be potted before growth begins."

GAVAGE

(b) A method of forcible feeding by the use of a force-pump and a tube passed into the stomach. The word is French. Lawrence Durrell: "In some country where the practice of force-feeding goes (1972) is in operation, there are always a goodly number of casualties."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Qf6+ Bb7; 2. e3+ Kb8 (2... Kb8: 3. f7+ Bc5+). Also, 1. Bf7 is decisive.

Clamping down on crime

Crime Beat

BBC1, 9.00pm

Maryn Lewis is back to reassure us that, however bad the crime figures may seem, the police are doing a grand job. Or at least some of them are. The topic for tonight is car crime and the first good news comes from Leeds. Two years ago it was the worst city in Britain for such crimes. Now, thanks to a new closed circuit television system in the city centre, car crime is down by half. The police in Birmingham have a different approach. They have been handing out pictures of the most wanted car thieves and say that even the villains who have not been caught are keeping away. In Cardiff, meanwhile, the police chief has named and shamed the city car parks most vulnerable to crime, thus encouraging their operators to improve security. Cardiff has also introduced Britain's first women-only car park.

Ice Men

BBC2, 9.30pm

A three-part history of Arctic exploration starts with the story of Robert Peary and Frederick Cook, the Americans who each claimed to be the first to go to the North Pole. Peary, a navy lieutenant, made the claim in 1909. Cook, a doctor, retorted that he had been there a year before. The arrogant and ambitious Peary was cast as the bad guy, and the affable Cook as the hero, until the University of Copenhagen did a devastating report on Cook's data. Peary's records were questioned in turn, though his gravestone in Arlington Cemetery calls him the "discoverer of the North Pole". Descendants of Peary and Cook revive the controversy, stubbornly insisting that their man was telling the truth, while Wally Herbert, the British explorer who reached the Pole in 1969, adds his expert and unprejudiced gloss.

Short and Carries: I Love My Mum

Channel 4, 9.45pm

Just as writers will tell you that a short story is a more difficult assignment than a novel, so film-makers can find a 15-minute short a greater challenge than a feature. The latest example of trying to use a small space to maximum effect is provided by a writer, Smriti Bhille, and a director,



Arctic explorer Robert Peary (9.30pm)

Alick Riley, two of the emerging talents that this series exists to promote. Their subject is the relationship, by turns explosive and affectionate, between an eight-year-old Asian boy and his drug-addict mother who live in West London. We observe them in their flat and on the streets, hear by proxy about the absent father, and are impressed by the director's ability to select striking images. It is an enigmatic piece, sometimes a shade pretentious, but it has enough promise to suggest that we will meet its makers again.

The Party's Over

Channel 4, 11.30pm

New Labour's honeymoon may have lasted much longer than the pundits expected, and political opponents hoped that in one area the romance has gone cold. As Tony Blair swept to victory, youth culture seemed firmly on board. Dream provided the campaign theme song, *Things Can Only Get Better*, and Downing Street partygoers included Chris Evans and Noel Gallagher of Oasis. Then it all went sour, and now not only ageing voters but the old arts establishment as well. The Party's Over tries to discover how and why with the help of Helen Storey, the fashion designer, Wayne Hemingway of Red or Dead, Stephen Bayley who resigned from Millennium Dome project, and Will Self, the maverick novelist. Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, appears for the defence.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Goodness Gracious Me

Radio 4, 6.30pm

The 6.30 comedy slot under the new schedules is proving a mixed bag but the return of this award-winning makes tonight a safe time to tune in. I remember calling attention to the first show in the first series, saying it had the strength of being an Asian comedy programme that would appeal to people from all backgrounds. Judged by the first programme in this new series, the same still applies. The opening sketch typifies the debunking approach of the writers, especially towards the fashion for all things Asian. A teenage son horrifies his parents by saying he wants to be a doctor. "How can you do this to us? Asians are cool, brown is the new black... doctors are square, also lawyers, accountants and tobaccoists."

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoh Sal 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Wiley. Includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearce 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce The Mix 8.30 Steve Lamacq - The Evening Session 8.30 Live Music 10.00 John Peel 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Johnnie Walker 11.30am Johnnie Walker 1.30pm News 2.00pm News 3.00pm News 4.00pm News 5.00pm News 6.00pm News 7.00pm News 8.00pm News 9.00pm News 10.00pm News 11.00pm News 12.00am News

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Nolly Campbell 12.00 The Midday News 1.00pm Ruocco and Co 4.00 Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.30 David Gower's Cricket Weekly. Includes a report from today's first-class international 8.00 Inside Edge. Rob Bonnet with the issues behind the sporting headlines 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night 5.00 Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

7.00am Chris Evans 10.00 Paul O'Leary 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Robin Banks 7.30 Ray Cokes 10.00 Mark Forster 2.00am Colin Jones 5.00 Jeremy Clark 5.00 Jeremy Clark

TALK RADIO

6.30am Kirsty Young with Bill Overton 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Anna Rastburn 9.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins 5.00 The Early Show

Cricket: England v South Africa

Radio 4, 10.45 (long-wave only)

Just when you thought there was nothing much to write to Feedback about here comes the Test Match Special team, temporarily sailing under the flag of the One-Day International team, to throw down the wickets of Radio 4's long-wave discharges and have them scatter the pitch with frantic appeals to the umpire, James Boyle. But what does a Scot know about cricket? The game is again spending the summer on Radio 4's long-wave frequency, starting with the first one-dayer against South Africa at the Oval. Aggers, Bowers, M-J and Gerald de Kock from South Africa will be on the air until 6pm, or whenever the game ends, with a news break at 12.00pm and the stripping forecast at 5.54pm.

Peter Barnard

WORLD SERVICE

7.00am News 7.15 Insight 7.30 Meridian Books 8.00 News 8.15 On the Spot 8.30 Composer of the Month 9.00 News 9.15 Performance 9.30 Hot New Country 10.00 News 10.05 World Business Report 10.10 The World 10.30 News 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.30 Discovery 12.00 News 12.30pm The Learning World 12.45 From Our Own Correspondent 1.00 News 1.05 News in German 1.05 World Business Report 1.10 News 1.20 News 1.30 News 1.45 Sports Roundup 2.00 News 2.05 Sports Roundup 2.15 World Business Report 2.20 News 2.30 News 2.45 Sports Roundup 3.00 News 3.05 Sports Roundup 3.15 World Business Report 3.20 News 3.30 News 3.45 Sports Roundup 4.00 News 4.05 Sports Roundup 4.15 World Business Report 4.20 News 4.25 Sports Roundup 4.30 News 4.35 Sports Roundup 4.45 News 4.50 Sports Roundup 5.00 News 5.05 Sports Roundup 5.15 News 5.20 Sports Roundup 5.30 News 5.35 Sports Roundup 5.45 News 5.50 Sports Roundup 6.00 News 6.05 Sports Roundup 6.15 News 6.20 Sports Roundup 6.30 News 6.35 Sports Roundup 6.45 News 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9.00 News

Why ear travel is not for the faint-hearted

What makes the human race so fascinating is that on the one hand it includes a variety of complex life forms — like you, me and Gore Vidal — and on the other it also includes Dan Quayle. Even so, if someone had told me that one day I would be able to travel through Professor Robert Winston's ear canal, I would have been amazed. I would certainly have thought that anybody should think I might want to travel through Prof Winston's ear canal. And having now done it, I would still have to say that ear travel is probably a limited market. You'd be pushed to develop a tourist industry around it in my opinion, anyway.

But if you didn't like his ear, Prof Winston, Britain's leading fertility expert, had plenty of other tricks to suck you into last night's opening episode of *The Human Body* (BBC1). Like Shakespeare's greatest plays, the gist of the series can be summed up in a few sentences, which, while accurate, still give no sense of the magic ahead (we're assuming here that after two years of preparation there is magic on its way). Winston's gist, which he conveyed while cuddling the newly born Charlotte, was that: "Like most of us at birth, there's really nothing to her: a bit of fat, a little sugar, a bit of protein, she's 75 per cent water. She's really just a collection of chemicals. And yet she is the most complicated thing on Earth, and during her lifetime she'll achieve the most amazing things." Providing, of course, she doesn't turn into Dan Quayle.

Of the many facts Winston recited to us — during her life Charlotte will eat 7,300 eggs, talk for 12 years, grow 950km of hair on her head, fall in love twice, spend three and a half years eating, live for 79 years, be able to name 2,000 people, and so on — the one statistic that has been attracting most pre-broadcast attention is that human beings have sex 2,580 times with five different people: obviously, what has made this figure so arresting is that it is an average that has been calculated across the human race as a whole. In other words, after you've taken account of Warren Beatty, that makes only 62 times for the rest of us.

When we or he tired of facts, Winston showed us scary pictures of body parts in frightening close-up — a human equivalent of that old Robert Robertson quiz game in which families had to identify an everyday object — usually a potato peeler — that had been photographed in close-up and at an unlikely angle. Last night we gawped at close-ups of a stomach lining (like a rumpled picnic rug), sweat pores, ear ducts and, of course, Prof Winston's memorable ear canal. I can't swear that I'd be able to pick it out again in a police lineup. They were not sights for the squeamish. Also, it felt strangely cannibalistic when the inside of your stomach went queasy at the sight of the inside of another stomach.

There was a certain awkwardness at times — partly because you felt that Winston was jettisoning the world (Yellowstone National Park, the French Pyrenees, car-crazy, some deep-sea diving) for fear that we might get bored if he didn't do something jazzy; and partly because, as well as being the first show in the series (showing us how human beings evolved), this opening programme was also doing double duty as a shop window, offering alluring glimpses of subjects from later episodes.

But the BBC should be applauded for choosing Winston to present such an ambitious and high-profile project (even if it couldn't afford to buy him the rest of his Groucho Marx disguise kit). There is such pressure on programme-makers today to make "heavy" subjects "digestible" by hiring a comedian to act as presenter — someone who can mug to the camera when a statistic like "the human body produces 40,000 litres of urine and spends six months on the loo" comes along — that we should remind the BBC how much we appreciate it when they don't talk down to us. Then again, maybe Paul Whitehouse (he'd have been perfect) just proved too expensive for the production budget.

Of course, what is truly remarkable and breathtaking about the human body, the thing that makes it such a miracle of Nature, is that it represents a state of physical and mental prowess that makes it almost unique in its ability to wipe out thousands of other equally remarkable and breathtaking miracles of Nature. Few people get to witness the bloody results of such inter-miracle warfare as much as staff of the Red Cross, whose work we glimpsed in *Crossing the Lines* (BBC2) last night. In this programme, the first of three, John Simpson showed us how the world's largest humanitarian organisation is coping as conflicts change from being battles between nation states to the now far more common civil wars — in which government forces fight guerrillas, and in which neither side automatically respects the Red Cross badge.

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

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BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (79632)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (7) (35286)
- 9.00 Change That! A masterclass on the style of the 1930s (911889)
- 9.25 Kilroy (1) (1654452)
- 10.05 A Date with Fate (7381841)
- 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (8047957)
- 10.55 The Really Useful Show Consumer hints and tips (1) (4025112)
- 11.25 The General (8320402)
- 12.00 News (1) (9786976)
- 12.05pm Wogan's Web Terry Wogan provides viewers with a forum for live discussion (5042452)
- 1.00 News (1) and weather (85763)
- 1.30 Regional News (1) (13573570)
- 1.40 The Weather Show (22983228)
- 1.45 Neighbours Lou feels responsible for Ben's accident and Ruth doesn't let him forget it. Caitlin tries to show Billy her true feelings (1) (9556670)
- 2.10 Inside A student takes the law into his own hands to bring a killer to book. Drama, starring Raymond Burr (1) (8892082) 3.00 Through the Keyhole (8265)
- 3.30 Playdays (1804547) 3.50 The Littlest Pet Shop (2497678) 4.00 Flamingo's America: Tales (2452228) 4.25 Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde (8049082) 4.40 Goosebumps (1) (2586537)
- 5.00 Newsround (1) (8665555)
- 5.10 No Sweat Lee is kidnapped by a gang of junior school terrorists, while Mickey dreams of being knighted (1) (8059247)
- 5.35 Neighbours (1) (101247)
- 5.40 Sbs O'Clock News (1) and weather (773)
- 5.50 Regional News (1) (353)
- 7.00 Watchdog: On the House in the final programme, Anne McKevitt and Sarah Gula present handy tips on wallpapering; plus, a cautionary tale for people tempted by companies wanting to use their homes for sales-seminars (1) (8247)
- 7.30 EastEnders Ricky gets some fatherly advice from Frank as his marriage hits the rocks (1) (537)
- 8.00 Crime Beat News series, featuring Maryn Lewis investigates how police are tackling car crime (1) (7095)
- 8.30 Keeping Mum Peggy is determined to prove she's still a good mother (1) (8402)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (1) and weather (4236)
- 9.30 Men Behaving Badly Laddish comedy, starring Martin Clunes and Neil Morrissey (1) (1) (25131)
- 10.00 The Ben Elton Show, with Ronnie Corbett (1) (10711)
- 10.30 Smith and Jones Comedy from Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones (1) (1) (9131)
- 11.00 Ulster: The Choice On the eve of Northern Ireland's referendum, David Dimbleby hosts a topical debate from Belfast (1) (91315)
- 12.05am Black Widow Murders: The Blanche Taylor Moore Story (TVM, 1985) True-life mystery, with Elizabeth Montgomery and David Crenn. Directed by Alan Metzger (2357700) 1.30 Weather (318464)
- 1.35 BBC News 24

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BBC2

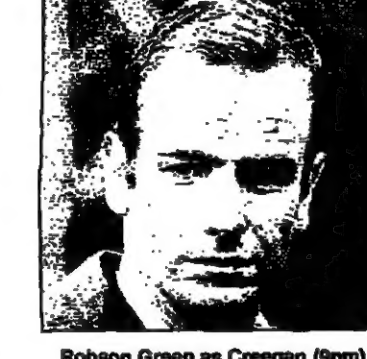
- 6.10am Breathes of Life (3278044) 6.35 Mammals in Water (5438315)
- 7.00 Teletubbies (1) (9631792) 7.25 The Fintona Comedy Show (9627589) 7.50 Blue Peter (1) (7395976) 8.15 Furry Phantom (1) (2171614) 8.40 Harry Kane (1) (4758773) 8.45 The Record (4366876)
- 9.10 Go for It! (2776131) 9.25 Mad About Music (2417808) 9.45 Come Outside (7354957) 10.00 Teletubbies (62247)
- 10.30 Storyline (6257247) 10.45 Teaching Today (8054747) 11.15 Zig Zag (9077421) 11.35 TV, Friend or Foe? (6337792) 11.55 Lateshow (9070421)
- 12.30pm Working Lunch (43537) 1.00 The Family News (1426637) 1.05 Tales of the Tooth Fairy (1426708)
- 1.10 The Countryside Hour Bob Langley unravels the secrets of the natural landscape on home ground in the Lake District (1657711)
- 2.10 Flightline Reports on the British fighter plane the Harrier jump-jet, the latest hi-tech flying simulators, and new advances in Russian aviation (7975242) 2.30 Tales from the Mole (8507334) 2.40 News (8504247) 2.45 Westminster (832315)
- 3.25 News (3105063) 3.30 Feast of Floyd (131)
- 4.00 Real Roads (5419570)
- 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (5429567)
- 4.55 Esther: Dame Edna Everage (849044)
- 5.30 Today's the Day (402)
- 6.00 Star Trek Voyager (1) (1) (43044)
- 6.45 Third Rock from the Sun (1) (1) (740402)
- 7.30 Regional Programme (179)



England's Adam Holloway (8pm)

HTV

- 6.00am GMTV (9555063)
- 9.25 This Morning (1) (1619698)
- 9.30 Vanessa (1) (2162605)
- 10.10 This Morning (1) (2686421)
- 12.15 pm Regional News (8971686)
- 12.30 News (1) and weather (30063)
- 1.00 Shortland Street (97421)
- 1.30 Home and Away (1) (38334)
- 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (1) (381818)
- 2.45 Waffle (1) (318589)
- 3.15 News (3103805)
- 3.20 Regional News (3100518)
- 3.25 Potamus Park (1) (3183841) 3.35 The Slow Norris (1) (801808) 3.45 Paddington Bear (1) (2401808) 3.50 Cartoon Time (1) (5437578) 3.55 South and Co (1) (1) (284750) 4.20 Brand Spanking New Doug (1) (8026131) 4.40 The Ward (1) (1) (4731150)
- 5.10 A Country Practice (6312808)
- 5.40 News (1) and weather (24911)
- 6.00 Home and Away (1) (1) (487570)
- 6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (487570)
- 6.25 HTV Weather (966698)
- 6.30 The West Tonight (421)
- 7.00 Emmerdale (1) (3315)
- 7.30 WALES: Inquisition (605)
- 7.30 We Can Work It Out Judge Finnigan investigates variations in price of popular holidays (605)
- 8.00 The Bill: The Better Man A drug addict is suspected of committing an assault on a police officer (1) (2063)
- 8.30 Undercover Customs (1) (1570)



Robson Green as Creagan (8pm)

CENTRAL

- As HTV West except:
- 1.00pm A Country Practice (97421)
- 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (6116763)
- 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (6312808)
- 6.25 Central News (402868)
- 6.55-7.00 Lateshow (431686)
- 10.40 Drama and Greg (614150)
- 11.10 Friday Night Fever (117063)
- 11.40 Still in Bed with McMedder (515841)
- 12.10pm Tales from the Crypt (8860700)
- 1.25 Not Fade Away (2994396)
- 2.30 Customs Classified (1594648)
- 3.10 Box Office America (9975567)
- 3.35 We Can Work It Out (65655822)
- 4.05 Central Jobfinder '98 (4719782)
- 5.20 Asian Eye (1146648)

WESTCOUNTRY

- As HTV West except:
- 12.27pm-12.30 Illuminations (9790179)
- 1.00 Drums in the Sun (97421)
- 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (6116763)
- 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (6312808)
- 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (48082)
- 10.30 Westcountry News (745860)
- 10.45 Absolutely Loaded (589150)
- 11.15 Pulling Power (589063)
- 11.45 Midnight Caller (798899)

MERIDIAN

- As HTV West except:
- 12.15-12.30 Meridian News and Weather (6971686)
- 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (6312808)
- 6.00 Meridian Tonight (841)
- 6.30-7.00 Grass Roots (421)
- 10.30 Meridian News and Weather (745860)
- 10.45 The Pier (860570)
- 11.10 The Listings (536334)
- 11.15 Go Fishing with John Wilson (589063)
- 11.45 House of Fun (585334)
- 5.00am FreeScreen (71396)

ANGLIA

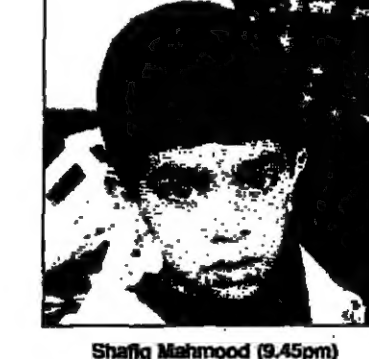
- As HTV West except:
- 12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (9794995)
- 1.00-1.30 Yan Can Cook (97421)
- 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (6312808)
- 6.23 Anglia Weather (536155)
- 6.25 Anglia News (402868)
- 6.55-7.00 What's On (431686)
- 10.29 Anglia Air Watch (9794995)
- 10.40 Go Fishing with John Wilson (614150)
- 11.10 Cover Story (117063)
- 11.40 Midnight Caller (421353)

S4C

- Starts: 7.00am The Big Breakfast (92976)
- 9.00 Ysgolion: Strangely Scientific (586063)
- 11.15 The West West Week (586063)
- 11.45 WALES: We Can Work It Out (585334)
- 11.45 Undercurrents (585334)
- 12.15am Tales from the Crypt (7488377)
- 12.40 The Jerry Springer Show (1) (1) (4701321)
- 1.30 SFX (2195067)
- 1.55 Planet Mirth (2198174)
- 2.25 Not Fade Away (378342)
- 3.25 The Chart Show (9754025)
- 4.15 Vanessa (9437193)
- 4.50 HTV Newsround (8766967)
- 5.00am Nightline (14938)

CHANNEL 4

- 7.00am The Big Breakfast (92976)
- 9.00 Schools: History in Action (2483841)
- 9.20 Geographical Eye (2403805) 9.40 Equinox (1940286) 10.35 News of the Week (4624186) 10.50 Express (9023082) 11.00 Equal Voice. New series (6860)
- 11.30 Powerhouse (1) (4888)
- 12.00 Sesame Street Educational programme for pre-school children (86632)
- 12.30pm Light Lunch with John Torode and Sarah Francis from Peak Practice (48888)
- 1.30 D-Day: The Sixth of June (1955) Wartime romance drama with Robert Taylor, Dana Wyler and Richard Todd. Directed by Henry Kosler (1) (45792)
- 3.30 Chelsea Live The Flower Show's general public admission day (599)
- 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (1) (334)
- 4.30 Countdown (1) (1811686)
- 4.55 Rold Lady: Lies, Lies, Lies (6474112)
- 5.30 Pet Rescue (1) (570)
- 6.00 Roseanne (1) (1) (711)
- 6.30 Hollyoaks (1) (173)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News (1) (261570)
- 7.50 Open Your Mind (47066)
- 8.00 Chelsea Flower Show Monty Don and the team provide a guided tour of the annual show (1) (2773)
- 9.00 Dispatches Further investigation into the loss of the *Geul*, a trawler which sank off the Norwegian coast 24 years ago (480402)



Shafiq Mahmood (9.45pm)

- 9.45 Short and Curious: I Love My Mum Buzz, an eight-year-old with a drug addict mother (1) (350353)
- 10.00 Women and Men: Stories of Seduction (1990, TVM) Three films based on stories of seduction by Mary McCarthy, Dorothy Parker and Ernest Hemingway, with Elizabeth McGovern, Beau Bridges, Peter Eiler, James Woods and Melanie Griffith. Directed by Frederic Raphael, Ken Russell and Tony Richardson (1) (610808)
- 11.35 The Party's Over Charing Labour's volatile relationship with the arts (420624)
- 12.35 am Michael Hayes Crime drama starring David Caruso as a US Attorney (1/2) (1) (8267938)
- 1.50 Rosalie Goes Shopping (1989) Off-beat comedy starring Marianne Sägebrecht, Brad Davis and Judge Reinhold. Directed by Percy Aron (849543)
- 3.05 Daddy's Diner, Who's Got the Will? (1990) Black comedy with Beau Bridges, Anthony Quinn and Judge Reinhold. Directed by Jack Fisk (869174)
- 4.50 Bedlam Britannica (1797107)
- 5.20 Night to Reply (1) (1) (8029719)
- 5.55 Sesame Street (7197025)

CHANNEL 5

- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 53 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 53 are: picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz
- 6.00am 5 News and Sport (3051888)
- 7.00 WideWorld (1) (3286150)
- 7.30 Mithras (3183624)
- 7.35 Wimpole's House (1) (7033955)
- 8.00 Havalaksoo (1) (826886)
- 9.00 Dappledown Farm (1) (192795)
- 9.30 Realm of the Giant Salamander (1) (1641537)
- 9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (1) (402112)
- 10.20 Sunset Beach (2106871) 11.10 Leza (841471)
- 12.00 5 News at Noon (1621773)
- 12.30pm Family Affairs (1) (1) (4318131)
- 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (323742)
- 1.30 Sons and Daughters (4317402)
- 2.00 Open House with Gloria Hunniford (3822228)
- 3.00 100 Per Cent Gold (1692421)
- 3.30 Battle at Apache Pass (1952) with Jeff Chandler, Hugh O'Brien and John Lund. Sequel to *Broken Arrow*, with Chandler repeating his role as Cochise the Apache leader. The friendship between the Apache and the Cavalry is threatened when a group of white settlers are massacred. Directed by John Sturges (348265)
- 5.10 The Oprah Winfrey Show (9880686)
- 6.00 100 Per Cent (2435537)
- 6.30 Family Affairs Holly sees James stealing Ann's purse (1) (2428889)
- 7.00 5 News (1) (1684402)
- 7.30 Realm of the Giant Salamander The twilight world of the bat (2415773)
- 8.00 Water Rats The body of a teenage boy is found in the boot of a car (1445044)
- 8.00 Punchline (1989) with Tom Hanks, Sally Field and John Goodman. Two comedians, one a brash youngster, the other a housewife and mother, dream of stardom as stand-ups and serve a grueling apprenticeship in a comedy club. Directed by David Zucker (1) (2229131)
- 11.15 The Jack Docherty Show Jack hosts another 40 minutes of chat music and laughter (3661353)
- 11.55 The Comedy Network (1980683)
- 12.25 am Live and Dangerous featuring 1.35 US Major League Soccer, DC United v New York New York Jets. 3.00 International Football (8330819)
- 4.40 Prisoner: Call Block H (1802380)
- 5.30 100 Per Cent (842867)



Jack Docherty hosts (11.15pm)

For further listings see Saturday's Vision

- SKY 1**
7.00am Tainted Teenage Alien Fighters (7789) 7.30 Games World (878797) 7.45 The Simpsons (7582) 8.15 Oprah (954308) 9.00 Home (86179) 10.00 The Simpsons (7582) 10.30 The Simpsons (7582) 11.00 The Simpsons (7582) 11.30 The Simpsons (7582) 12.00 The Simpsons (7582) 12.30 The Simpsons (7582) 1.00 The Simpsons (7582) 1.30 The Simpsons (7582) 2.00 The Simpsons (7582) 2.30 The Simpsons (7582) 3.00 The Simpsons (7582) 3.30 The Simpsons (7582) 4.00 The Simpsons (7582) 4.30 The Simpsons (7582) 5.00 The Simpsons (7582) 5.30 The Simpsons (7582) 6.00 The Simpsons (7582) 6.30 The Simpsons (7582) 7.00 The Simpsons (7582) 7.30 The Simpsons (7582) 8.00 The Simpsons (7582) 8.30 The Simpsons (7582) 9.00 The Simpsons (7582) 9.30 The Simpsons (7582) 10.00 The Simpsons (7582) 10.30 The Simpsons (7582) 11.00 The Simpsons (7582) 11.30 The Simpsons (7582) 12.00 The Simpsons (7582) 12.30 The Simpsons (7582) 1.00 The Simpsons (7582) 1.30 The Simpsons (7582) 2.00 The Simpsons (7582) 2.30 The Simpsons (7582) 3.00 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RACING 45

Napoleon's Sister proves her worth at Goodwood

SPORT

THURSDAY MAY 21 1998

HOCKEY 46

Australia look to Annan's lead in defence of title



Captain seeks to restore lost confidence in one-day series against South Africa

Hollioake puts on his thinking cap

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

IF THERE is an ideal time and place for Adam Hollioake to confront and correct the precarious nature of his position as the England one-day captain, this morning at the Oval is it. On his home ground and against an underprepared South Africa, Hollioake has the opportunity to restore lost confidence — both his own and that of those who must judge him.

England lost four consecutive one-day games before the close of their Caribbean tour and Hollioake could not be exempt from blame. By his own admission, his captaincy lost the flair for hunch and instinct that had set him apart. It has taken some solitary soul-searching to straighten his mind and the faith of the selectors to permit him this fresh chance.

It has not begun as he would have wished. Graham Thorpe, the rock around which England build so many innings, has suffered a recurrence of back trouble and is most unlikely to be fit. A phone call late on Tuesday evening — entrusted to Nasser Hussain to the squad after a month of disillusionment — he is set for what, remarkably, would be his one-day debut in this country.

This disruption apart, England approach the first of three Test Trophy games with justifiable optimism, based partly on their own formidable record in this com-

petition and partly on the fact that South Africa will logically be some way short of their peak. They arrived only ten days ago and their limited warm-up has comprised two facile victories against undemanding opposition.

The weather, at least, has been kind to them but they are marginally less acclimatised than were the Australians last summer, when an ultimately triumphant tour sustained serious early damage with a 3-0 reversal in the Texaco games and defeat in the first Test.

Hansie Cronje, the South Africa captain, spoke positively yesterday when asked about the self-made predicament of his team. "I do believe it is possible for us to be at our best, though we would have struggled if the weather had not been so good. We've done all we wanted to in the past

week and modern itineraries are such that we don't seek much cricket before the internationals."

His team selection has been simplified, if cruelly, by the shoulder injury that has dispatched Roger Telemachus back home. His replacement, Steve Elworthy, does not arrive until Saturday and South Africa will retain the side that beat Kent on Tuesday, their batting order open to the improvisation of promotion for Lance Klusener or Pat Symcox.

England could be intimidated if they studied one-day records too closely. South Africa undertook 22 internationals during the winter and won 18 of them, including five in succession against Australia. They have also won their past six one-day games against England and Cronje's figures as captain are an impressive 65 wins from 87 games.

The bookmakers are firmly in the South Africa corner, quoting them at 4-7 for the series, but with six consecutive Texaco Trophies behind them and a squad chosen specifically for the assignment, England are anything but forlorn outsiders.

Hollioake, intent on being true to himself again after acting on too much external advice in the West Indies, looked relaxed and sounded confident in the Oval sunshine yesterday. "South Africa are arguably the best one-day side in the world but their players have got heartbeats, just like ours," he said. "We didn't play very well in the Caribbean, but everyone has forgotten about that now."

In his case, of course, that is not entirely true, and beneath the brash facade, Hollioake is sensitive to the imperatives of his position. He has been reappointed only for this series and, should things go badly wrong, command could pass to the Test-match captain, Alec Stewart, before the August triangular series.

"I don't feel I'm on trial but everyone keeps talking about it so I suppose I am, really," he said with a grin. "Pressure is something you put on yourself and if you don't feel it, it isn't there. I didn't captain very

well in the Caribbean. I made mistakes, as everybody does now and again.

"I could look back on it in two ways. I could sit and sulk about what happened or just get on with things. I'm doing the latter and I'm aware that people are investing in me and letting me grow into the job. If I don't learn when things go wrong, I am wasting everyone's time."

Hollioake feels he was restricted in the West Indies by a bowling attack that lacked variety. "We were a bit samey. I could put Mark Ealham on, or Matthew Fleming, or myself, but it was all similar stuff. That is where we gain here from having the likes of Lewis, Gough and Giles."

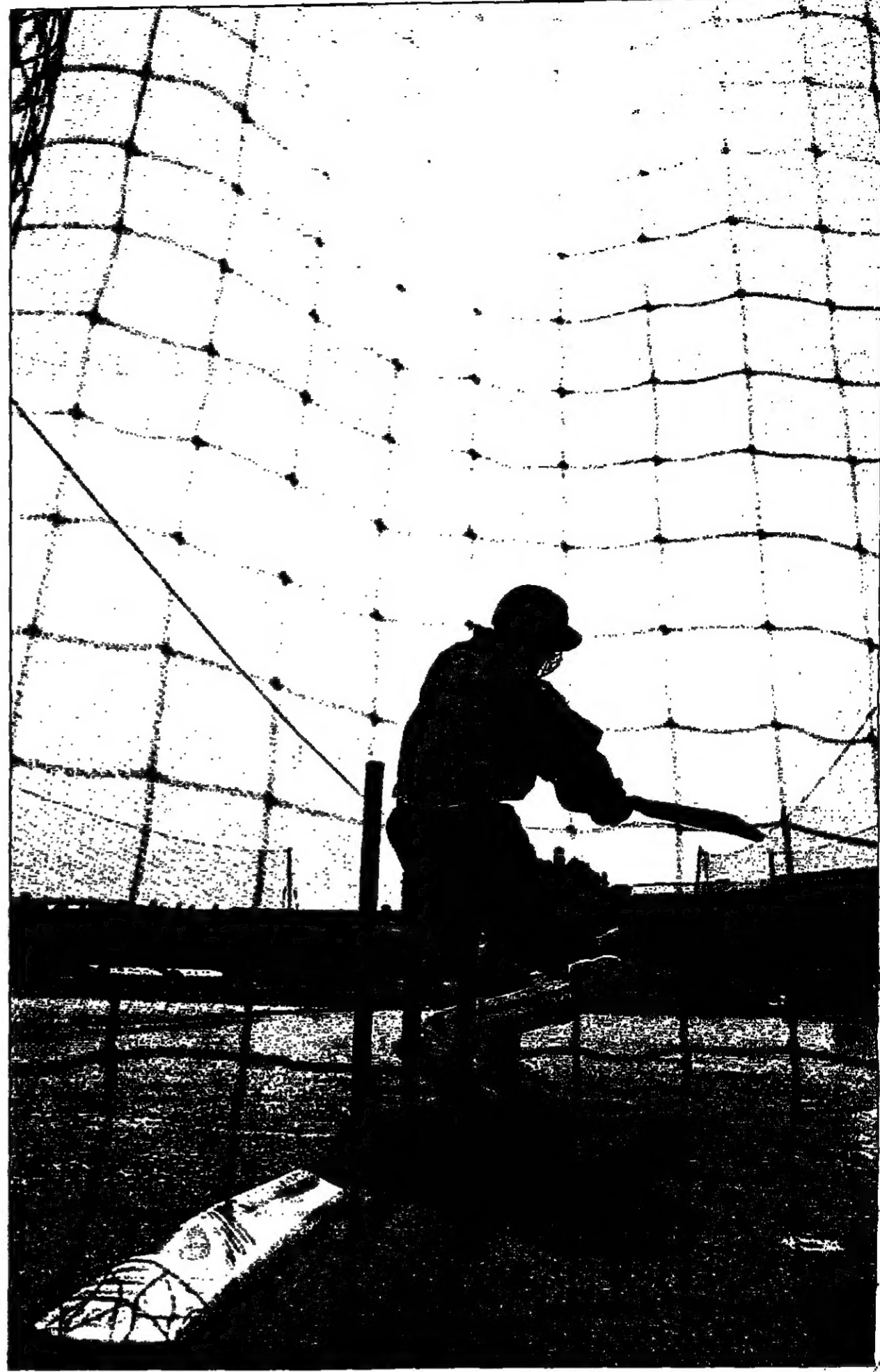
The first two named are sure to play today, sharing the new ball, and the sight of Gough's shiny, happy face has already been a tonic to all in and around the team after his frustrating winter's absence.

S Africa's wild card — 48
Notts undied — 48
Extra Cover — 48

Giles could displace Fleming as England's bowling all-rounder if it is thought that the Oval pitch merits two spinners. Cronje described the look of the surface as "awesome" and it is likely to follow the pattern of the last four one-day internationals on the ground, which have produced first-innings scores of 302, 306, 291 and Australia's inadequate 249.

Thorpe could be sorely missed: His lower back, which first went into spasm during the Barbados Test match in March, let him down again on Sunday, as he practised at Southampton, and by yesterday he was sore and inhibited.

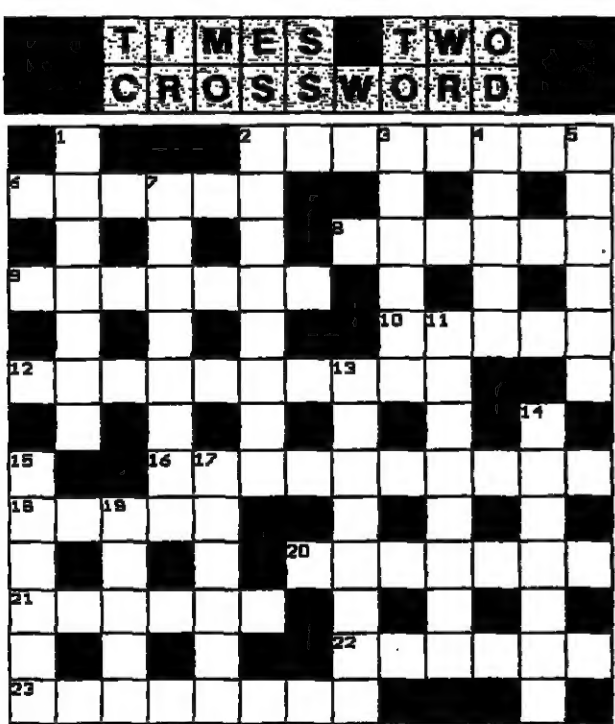
Wayne Morton, the England physiotherapist, did not discount the prospect of a recovery by this morning but talk of scans suggested that the chance is remote. It is hardly a good omen that Thorpe played in the one limited-overs victory in the Caribbean, returning home before the four defeats. A bad break for him, though, is a good break for his close friend, Hussain.



Sparkling form: Alec Stewart, the England Test captain, practises his shots in the Oval nets yesterday



Graham Gooch, right, gives Darren Maddy a hand



No 1411

ACROSS

- 2 Bridgetown is capital (8)
- 6 Bargain over price (6)
- 8 Area of authority, of expertise (6)
- 9 One raised (fohn): a beggar (Lute) (7)
- 10 Aroma trail (5)
- 12 Merchant sailing ship (10)
- 16 (Chair) padding (10)
- 20 Conscious (of) (5)
- 28 Throb, oscillate (7)
- 21 Water down (6)
- 22 Land for crops (6)
- 23 Confusion; ailment (8)

DOWN

- 1 First man into space (7)
- 2 Leave (in will) (6)
- 3 Lady's top (6)
- 4 First Englishman round world (5)
- 5 An upper house (6)
- 7 Majesty: God's — (Hoplites) (8)
- 11 Judgment yardsticks (8)
- 13 Unit of air pressure (6)
- 14 Liable to snap (7)
- 15 Came down sort of gentry (6)
- 17 Annoy, bother (6)
- 19 African range: sort of book (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1410

ACROSS: 1 Hepburn 5 Brawl 8 Whisk 9 Tighen 10 Half-marathon 12 Refute 14 Washer 17 Hadrian's Wall 21 Anguish 22 Rejig 23 Batch 24 Tonsure
DOWN: 1 Hawthorn 2 Phil 3 Unkempt 4 Nature 5 Bigot 6 Antioch 7 Link 11 Prologue 13 Fright 15 Also-ran 16 Cachet 18 Reid 19 Anjou 20 Barb

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Hakkinen senses cloud on the horizon in Schumacher domain

FROM KEVIN EASON IN MONACO

MIKA HAKKINEN might have strolled familiar streets yesterday just a few miles from his home, but he was walking the domain of Michael Schumacher. The Monaco Grand Prix belongs to Schumacher. No driver on the grid has been more successful than the German here, with three wins in the past four years and qualification for the front row for the past five.

If he wants to impose his psychological will over Hakkinen to prevent him from running away with this year's championship, this is the place to do it. Hakkinen has been singularly unsuccessful at Monaco as a Formula One driver, managing only a sixth place since 1992, including an ignominious exit on the second lap of last year's grand prix.

The world championship leader, who is 12 points ahead of his German rival, knows that the tight, twisting streets of the tiny Principality are the place where a driver of Schumacher's calibre can overcome the deficiencies of his car. As he strolled down to the harbour yesterday afternoon, Hakkinen looked up at the clouds hanging on the tops of the mountains that rise from the sea and remembered that Monaco also usually provides its own threat to the driver who presumes that the domination of his machine will be enough to emerge victorious: the weather.

A downpour last year showed just how the formbook can be upset: as Hakkinen and team-mate Coulthard crashed out, Rubens Barrichello took his Stewart Ford into second place behind Schumacher for his team's best result so far in

its short life, a performance that earned the Brazilian driver the reward of a new Rolex watch from Jackie Stewart. Barrichello, understandably, said he was "anxious" to get into his car for practice today to discover whether the Stewart Ford can be a threat

again on Sunday: "Who knows, especially if it rains?" he wondered.

Everyone here, though, knows that Schumacher, with an improved Ferrari this weekend within touching distance of the superior McLaren and encouraged by even a few

drops of rain, would be a strong threat.

The Ferrari has yet more modifications on display, plus new Goodyear tyres that Schumacher believes will help him here, while the huge aerodynamic advantage enjoyed by the McLaren so far will be of little aid to Hakkinen. The man at the wheel will also be an important factor, particularly if the weather plays its part, and Schumacher is the proven driver at Monaco.

"If we are within a few tenths of a second, we have a chance," Schumacher said. "I guess we will be closer here. There is a higher risk involved on this circuit, but we have to work on a package that is going to work at every circuit, not just here."

Hakkinen, at least, could enjoy the view and the adulation that goes with being the world championship leader as he mingled with crowds outside the Formula One paddock. He can go on enjoying his superiority so long as he does not commit another error on Sunday and allow Schumacher the chance to claw back into the title race.

"It is nice to be at home," said Hakkinen, "but it has been really bad for me in races here. Over many years, I have had strange situations with mechanical failures and accidents."

"I have to drive a clean race: set up the car right in practice, get a good place in qualifying and then make sure I don't get involved in anything that will stop me finishing. I love racing in Monaco, but it is a hectic time and it is a big challenge to keep your head and not make a mistake in the race."



Man in front: Schumacher discusses his run of success in Monaco with Hakkinen more than a casual observer

Take the time to listen and you'll hear what people are really saying.

The Samaritans' Week 16 23 May '98

Relief as Subarto quits

Airtel to p...

Pravara Station: The station is a small building with a red roof and a white wall. It is located on the bank of the Pravara River. The station is a small building with a red roof and a white wall. It is located on the bank of the Pravara River.

TV & RADIO: 50.5
WEATHER: 50.5
CROSSWORDS: 50.5
LETTERS: 50.5
OUTLOOKS: 50.5
MATTHEW PARKES: 50.5
CHESA BRIDGE: 50.5
COUNTRY & SOCIAL: 50.5
BUSINESS: 50.5
STYLE: 50.5
MEDIA: 50.5

THE SAMARITANS' WEEK 16 23 MAY '98
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